OPINION /A12

Isagani Cruz: The Arroyo camp could aim for a Round 2 on people's initiative at the SC, after Chief Justice Panganiban's retirement. He should lead in preventing such chicanery against the people.

WEATHER

'Paeng' intensifies into a typhoon, heads for central, northern Luzon

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Buy lots of good luck at Manila's feng shui emporium • Killer cuisine: What the cold-blooded crave for • Ghostbusting 911 for the possessed, the haunted • the exorcist and more...

US elections are filthy, as in germs, parasites

WASHINGTON—CAMpaigns are filthy. Not only in terms of last-minute smears and dirty tricks.

But also filthy, as in germs, parasites and all the bacterial unpleasantness that is spread around through so much

ELECTIONS/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, October 29, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 333 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Purchasing officers urged to 'buy green'

By Volt Contreras

A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN specifically calls on purchasing officers in both the public and private sectors to help pressure industries to be more Earth-friendly.

While other eco-drives have been directed at the average consumer, "GPS" seeks to tap the power of "bulk buyers"—or those who decide

PURCHASING/A19

'We remain loyal to GMA'

WHAT'S INSIDE

PDI'S man in Hollywood waits in vain for Gina Pureño at the Hawaii film fest, and why Kirsten Dunst felt lonely playing Marie Antoinette.

ENTERTAINMENT / I1

Weaver pitches 9 strikeouts, hurls underdog Cardinals to World Series crown.

SPORTS / A28

First, Davao, today Manila, tomorrow, the world? Or, how a housewife's instant mixes of 'puto-kutsinta' maja blanca, etc. are set to go global.

SUNDAY BIZ/ B1

At Home: All that glitters is not gold as Pinoy furniture reaches its crystal age.

LIFESTYLE / E1

The Firm denies hand in SC's Cha-cha ruling

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"THE FIRM" REAFFIRMED YESTERDAY ITS LOYalty to its most prized client, President Macapagal-Arroyo, but said it was in agreement with the Supreme Court's decision throwing out the petition for a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Villanueva & Angangco (formerly Cayetano Villanueva & Cruz) "categorically denied" speculation that it had a hand in the high court's strongly worded decision written by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, a founding partner of the firm.

It also said it had never been involved at any point with the President's campaign to have the Constitution amended preparatory to a shift to the unicameral-parliamentary system.

All the partners of The Firm declare that they remain firm and loyal defenders of the President and her administration," F. Arthur "Panchi" Villaruz, managing partner of Villanueva & Angangco, said in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

"The Firm categorically denies any involvement in the recent Supreme Court ruling penned by Justice Antonio T. Carpio junking the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan to amend the Constitution through the people's initiative," he added.

A Malacañang official and a top lawyer, who had both asked not to be named, told the Inquirer on Friday that Carpio's vote and barbed words on the Palace-backed people's initiative indicated a falling out between the President and The Firm.

MR. ROMERO/A19

RIZAL PARK IN CHINA: President Arroyo pays her respects to the national hero who has a monument in Shengpu village of Jinjiao City, Fujian province, the birthplace of the national hero's ancestors. At 18.61 meters, it's higher than the 12-meter high Rizal statue at the Luneta. Enshrined in a 5-ha park, the monument is made of the world-famous Jinjiang granite stones. It was inaugurated 3 years ago.

Arms for Farms deal turns rebels into farmers, fishermen

By Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER MORO REBELS—AND even Abu Sayyaf members and their families—are now tilling the land they once fought for in Sulu.

At a roundtable discussion in Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo cited the "Armas for Parang" scheme being implemented by Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong, which helped 25,000 members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) off and benefit from the yield of 8,500 hectares of land.

The President said Sulu used to top the list of the poorest provinces in the country but now its poverty incidence is down to 47 percent from 67 percent.

She said former MNLF members were now living peacefully as fishermen, farmers and soldiers of the government.

"There are many programs for people who would want to exchange their arms for farms—for those who want to turn [their] swords into plow shares, as mentioned in the Bible," Ms Arroyo said.

Loong said that under the Arms for Farms program, his office offered the use of farm tractors to land owned or tilled by former combatants in areas in Sulu.

It also provided them with planting materials delivered on site. Come harvest time, the yield would all go to the combatant-farmers.

"So that's our agreement—they store away their

ARMS/A6

GMA calls for joint Sino-RP exploration of S. China Sea

NANCHANG CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday called for more joint exploration activities in the disputed South China Sea as a means to strengthen the partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China which she said "has never been better or stronger."

The President said she would issue the same call when she attends and co-chair of the Asean-China commemorative summit in Nanning on Oct. 30-31. The summit will celebrate the 15 years of partnership between the regional grouping and China.

Security, prosperity and poverty are among the issues that President Arroyo said would be tackled and addressed in the Nanning summit next week and later in the Philippines which will host the Asean leaders' summit in December.

Speaking before students of Nanchang University, the President said that Asean and Chinese leaders were expected to issue a declaration after the summit "on what our visions would be like for the next generation."

She then shared with the students "some of my thoughts about what I would tell my other colleagues" during the Asean-China summit on how to strengthen this partnership.

Saying there was a need to promote confidence-building measures between the two sides, President Arroyo then called for a joint exploration in the South China Sea—which she noted had already been done by the Philippines, China and Vietnam, all claimants to some parts and overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

"What we have done in Asean-China, we have turned that area of possible conflict into an area of cooperation instead because China and the Philippines agreed that instead of fighting all the time over that sea we will conduct joint seismic research in SCS (South China Sea)," she said.

Vietnam later joined them after first objecting to the joint exploration between Manila and Beijing. Since then, Ms Arroyo said that the three countries have been able to conclude their joint seismic research in the area.

"We should go forward now," President Arroyo said. "Now that the seismic research has been done and the findings are being collated, if warranted we should consider having joint exploration in the South China Sea."

The President also suggested intensifying interactions between Asean and China through more trade, investment and tourism.

She also called for the allocation of adequate resources to "meet the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit, such as China providing preferential loans to support projects invested in by Chinese companies with Asean."

Saying that China plays an important and strategic role in the economic development and security situation in the Asia Pacific region, she said China was "expected to take the lead in pro-

GMA/A8

LOW-KEY VISIT TO PAYATAS

Japanese football star drops in

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR 7-YEAR-OLD HECTOR Lopez Jr., the day began like any other, waking up in the family's cramped, one-room shelter with a view of a mountain of trash in Payatas, Quezon City.

So it came as a surprise when Lopez and his family were visited yesterday morning by 20-year-old Hidetoshi Nakata, a former Japanese soccer player and one of the most famous Asian football players of his generation.

Nakata talked with Lopez for 10 minutes, unmindful of the little boy's allergies that left his skin riddled with sores.

Nakata ended his short visit by giving Lopez a brand new football. The little boy wordlessly thanked the global sports star by

JAPANESE/A19

HOW OTHER SIDE LIVES. Football superstar who captained Japan's soccer team in the last World Cup, Hidetoshi Nakata, makes a surprise visit to the home of Hector Lopez Jr. in Payatas and gifts him with a football.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

'Paeng' now a typhoon; warnings up

By Blueche S. Rivera and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "PAENG" HAS INTENSIFIED INTO A TYphoon and was headed for Central and Northern Luzon as of 5 p.m. yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

The typhoon, with maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, was spotted by radar 200 km east-southeast of Dingalan, Aurora, or 310 km east-southeast of Casiguran, Aurora.

Pagasa said public storm signal No. 2 (meaning many fly-away tiles) remained hoisted over Catanduanes, Signal No. 1...the four severe...rain raised over the Catanduanes province, Albay, Sorsogon, northern Quezon, Polillo Island, Aurora, Quirino, Isabela, southern Cagayan and Northern Samar.

The Bureau defines tropical storms as having winds of 64 kph to 118 kph while a typhoon has winds exceeding 118 kph.

"Paeng" is expected to make landfall tomorrow afternoon over the Aurora-Isabela area before rounding to Ilocos, Mr. Perdigon said in an interview. It will be moving away from the country on Tuesday, when it is expected to be 460 km west-southwest of Pagasa, Basco (sic).

Learning from the signal No. 3 Typhoon "Milenyo" experience, Malacañang has asked local governments and barangay officials to prepare now for the coming typhoon.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said all LGU and barangay officials should clear the streets of all objects and debris that could be blown away by strong winds.

He said that the officials should make sure that all were moved, especially those awakened by the previous typhoon, to prevent personal injuries from tripping power lines. Rescuers efforts after "Milenyo" were hampered by trees and branches that brought down power poles and lines and obstructed roads.

Ermita also ordered the officials to be prepared to assist in post-typhoon cleanup to speed up normalization.

"Milenyo," the worst typhoon to hit the country in a decade, brought unprecedented destruction. It took more than a week before power was fully restored in Metro Manila after it passed.

Pagasa itself advised those planning trips to Batanes and Babuyan yesterday to stay put until "Paeng" crosses the region and headed for Central Luzon.

It also advised the Philippine Coast Guard to temporarily stop the movement of sea vessels on the Sorsogon-Masbate, Albay-Catanduanes and Sorsogon-Northern Samar routes while the typhoon was moving over the Bicol region.

Those who are headed for Northern and Central Luzon were advised to leave as soon as possible because "Paeng" would hit the areas tomorrow morning based on its current direction.

Pagasa also advised bus companies to limit their passengers and schedule their trips according to the advisories it issued because most of certain destinations could be "critical" at specified times.

"Our concern is that people could be stranded. On ordinary days, thousands get stranded (when they ignore warnings). How much more now, when everyone is going home (for All Souls Day)? The number of those that can be stranded can easily number (into the) several," Pagasa weather chief Nathaniel Cruz said.

For his part, Pagasa's Prisco Nilo said: "Even if tropical storm Paeng is predicted to move northward Central Luzon, due to its large circulation, the storm will still affect the Bicol region and Samar. This will lead to the cancellation of sea travel by small ships plying the area."

Filipinos usually troop to their home provinces for the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebrations when families gather and remember the departed. The government has declared Nov. 1 a holiday.

Pagasa has also advised local officials to the affected areas of the intensity and direction of "Paeng," adding they should not claim to be uninformed when the typhoon hits their localities.

"The storm could also bring a large volume of rainwater to the watershed of Pantabangan Dam that could trigger the opening of its floodgates for the first time since it was constructed more than 20 years ago and pose a serious threat to nearby communities," Pagasa said.

BUMPER TO BUMPER TO BUMPER

Vehicles form long lines on Edsa after the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority began repainting portions of the thoroughfare for three consecutive weekends beginning 10 p.m. Friday until 5 a.m. Monday until the first week of December. The public is advised to avoid the southbound lane of Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue in Cubao, the Aurora Boulevard underpass in Quezon City, the northbound lane in front of SM Megamall in Ortigas, Buendia and Gil Puyat Avenue as well as C-5 Road at Katipunan in Makati. (ALEX BADAYOS)

Ecija farmers dread the rains at this time

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—EVEN BEFORE IT STRIKES make landfall, Typhoon "Paeng" has stirred up a storm among various sectors in Luzon.

While homeowners and irrigation officials are gearing for more rain to increase the water level at Angat Dam, rice growers in Nueva Ecija said a typhoon at the time of the year is bad news for them.

Rosalio Jimeno, Nueva Ecija agriculturist, said hundreds of millions of pesos worth of palay (unhusked rice) ready for harvest may be destroyed because of strong rains. Farmers here are rushing their efforts to quickly harvest and thresh their palay to take advantage of the still prevailing good weather conditions.

In case of sudden rains, the quality of their harvests would deteriorate and lessen their value in the market.

He said only 30 percent of the more than 180,000 hectares planned to cover this cropping season had been harvested." There are still more than 100,000 hectares of palay to be harvested," Jimeno said.

Reports gathered by the Inquirer showed that because of an approaching tropical depression (for area where), many boats stopped taking in newly harvested palay to avoid difficulties in drying their grain. Some are using the approaching storm as a reason to lower their offer price for palay from the prevailing P8.50 to P7.50 per kilo.

Jimeno said the harvest was already delayed because the rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities to flush the planting refuse, and now, another storm is coming.

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Satur beats Gonzalez to the draw, is finally able to leave for Japan

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez acted too late to make Bayan Muna party-list representative and House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo sign a pledge not to criticize the Arroyo administration while in Japan...but he failed.

Ocampo had breezed through the strict check-in procedures of Northwest Airlines, only to be surprised by Gonzalez's last-ditch effort at reenacting his trip at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport immigration counter.

Gonzalez yesterday announced he would allow Ocampo to leave the country once he presented a court order, saying the opposition leader deserved to be barred from leaving because of his criticism of the Arroyo administration's efforts to forge ties.

Armed with a court order from Judge Cesar Untalan of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150, an indignant Ocampo told immigration officers: "If I don't sign that waiver, will you stop me again?"

Untalan based the written order yesterday, a day after he approved Ocampo's motion for a travel clearance in an open court proceeding. Gonzalez had refused to recognize an oral order but he also failed to present a court order backing his instruction to include Ocampo in the Department of Justice's hold-departure list.

Ocampo said the immigration officer had no choice but to abide by Untalan's order. The confident-faced immigration officer tried to call Gonzalez and, unable to reach him, stamped Ocampo's passport and permitted him to board Northwest Airlines flight 9W7029 bound for Tokyo.

"This so-called waiver is affidavit (but) Gonzalez wishes to obtain from me is nonsense. He should likewise request a valid order from a proper court," Ocampo said.

"Sobra na yung panggigipit at di pansin. Kahapon ako nagpakita ng court order kaya hindi dapat kami sumasawsaw sa court order. Ok'o ako much. Yesterday, they only asked for a court order. Now they want a waiver. They are we were not following the courts or docs.) It's Gonzalez's fault is become a big issue," Ocampo said.

Asked by reporters if he would file charges against Gonzalez, Ocampo said Bayan Muna general counsel Neri Colmenares and other lawyers were studying their options.

While in Japan, Ocampo will meet with leaders of the Social Democratic Party which has six members in the Japanese Diet (Parliament), Japanese solidarity groups and several Filipino migrant organizations. He will also address a conference on the Philippine human rights situation.

For his part, Colmenares challenged Gonzalez to present the waiver supposedly signed by Ocampo prior to his recent foreign trips. The justice secretary had claimed Ocampo had violated the waiver that purportedly contained a pledge not to criticize the country while abroad.

"Secretary Gonzalez should show clear answer to the public. Ex Same will never agree to restrictions or curtailing his fundamental rights, especially the rights to free speech and to seek redress of grievances against this evil-ess government," Colmenares said.

He said Gonzalez's barring of Ocampo's trip will be relayed to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Amnesty International, United Nations and other international bodies as "solid proof of the Arroyo government's policy of persecution against progressive legislators, activists and other perceived foes of the President."

Roco widow to join 2007 Senate race

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—SONIA ROCO, the widow of the late Sen. Raul S. Roco, announced on Thursday she had decided to run for senator in the 2007 midterm elections over that the people's initiative to amend the Constitution had been junked by the Supreme Court.

Saying she wanted to continue her husband's concerns on women, the youth and advocacies, Roco said she would run under Aksyon Demokratiko, the political party of her husband in his bid for the presidency in 2004. The party is now headed by Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan.

She said she and Tan had been holding exploratory talks with the Liberal Party-Kalusugan Unlad, which, however, the debates had come out of the talks so far.

Rep. Sorsogon Solon, LP secretary general, confirmed that there were indeed exploratory talks with Aksyon Demokratiko which, he said, also included Sen. Franklin Drilon and Sen. Mar Roxas.

Roco said she was also open to whatever terms of cooperation they could agree on with Mark Jimenez who met with her in Legaspi City in August when the former lawmaker distributed relief goods in evacuees of the Mayon volcano eruption.

She, her brother-in-law Salpicio Roco Jr., one-time representative of Camarines Sur's second district, and younger brother of the late senator, and Jimenez joined the relief operation in Albay.

"Mark Jimenez invited me to join him in the relief operation and I accepted," Roco said.

She explained that Jimenez was a friend of Salpicio's from the House of Representatives in 2001 to 2004.

"We have not talked substantially about matters," Roco said, referring to the possibility of forging an alliance and raising funds and resources with Jimenez.

She also said Jimenez in Norfolk building—a network of women's groups with a presence in Mindanao, the Visayas, Bicol and Southern Tagalog—had shown its support behind her plan to run for a Senate seat.

Palace to review 'toxic' RP-Japan pact

By Blanche S. Rivera

BY A 182 TO 19 MAJORITY A "bloody fight" in the Senate, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita assured environmentalists on Friday that he would order a review of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) before it reaches the Senate for ratification when the chamber resumes sessions next month.

Environmental lawyer and Green Initiatives chief Mimi Jocson said Ermita was also concerned that the treaty, the first and most important bilateral agreement inked by the Philippines in 60 years, would violate national and international laws.

"He affirmed our concerns. It gave us some hope that he said he would order a review of the JPEPA. He's also worried that it violates international and Philippine laws," Bison told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

"It is within their power to review and revise, and before they do it now before it goes to the Senate because this will destroy them," she said.

Jocson met with Ermita, Madam Gerth Gonzalez Odette Alcantara and University of the Philippines geologist Mendoza Palapay in Malacañang at noon Friday.

The JPEPA was signed on Sept. 9 by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

The JPEPA, which covers 11,200 tariff lines or commodities, mandates zero tariff for wastes and materials deemed hazardous under Republic Act No. 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act of 1990, and the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that Malacañang would not allow the entry of toxic and hazardous waste but, of in the event t Philippine subsidiary of the JPEPA, which includes sewage sludge, incinerator ash, clinical waste, pharmaceutical waste, municipal waste, among other things.

Article 25 of the basic agreement of the JPEPA defines originating goods from both countries as articles that are fit only for disposal and cannot be repaired or restored anymore.

"We gave him (Ermita) a summary of Philippine laws living revised. He seemingly agreed, and we hind his statement, but no matter what he says, no one will believe him until Article 25 is there, so we told him the best thing to do is to delete it," Bison said.

"When this thing reaches the Senate, it will be bloody... He seemed to recognize the conflict, and he said he also did not want dumping here," she said.

The environmentalist groups will also meet with chief Philippine negotiator Thomas Aquino on Monday to discuss the JPEPA and its implications on the environment.

DOJ wants Palparan

RETIRED ARMY MAJ. GEN. Jovito Palparan has found a leader in Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez confirmed he was trying to woo Palparan out of retirement to become an intelligence and security adviser in the Department of Justice.

"He's a good soldier, he has experience on matters of intelligence and security. Intelligence is important in the DOJ in investigating cases ranging from the secret to the most heinous," Gonzalez said in a recent interview with reporters.

"But he has not accepted yet," he added.

Gonzalez said Palparan was "an idealist" because "he wants a more active participation in government and not just as a consultant."

Palparan retired on Sept. 11. He was the chief nemesis of communist rebels and militants, which earned for him the moniker of "the butcher."

President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government and military officials, however, lauded his record in the anti-insurgency campaign. GMA, Gabayan ni Ar-

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WHO cites 2 RP cities for health efforts

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION on Saturday commended eight cities in the Asia-Pacific region, including Marikina and Tagaytay, for programs aimed at improving the health of their populations.

Cities in the Philippines, Australia, China, Japan and South Korea were given awards for a range of initiatives including the promotion of breastfeeding, reduction of gender-based violence and plans to improve the health of people living in urban slums.

The WHO's acting regional director for the Western Pacific, Dr. Richard Brisbe, gave me the awards in ceremonies in Wuhan, China, the world health body's regional office in Manila said in a statement.

South Korea's Wonju city received a Good Practice Award for innovative approaches in financing health promotion activities and Ayia city was recognized for best practices in breastfeeding and protecting people in their work places.

Kanchan city in China's Jiangsu province received two Good Practice Awards for fighting gender-based violence and improving the quality of care through a smoke-friendly hospital initiative.

The city of Marikina in the Philippines was cited for its health emergency preparedness and response planning.

Ben Proposal awards went to Japan's Ichihara City and the Philippines' Tagaytay City and Marikina City.

Ichihara was given $50,000 (about P180,000) in seed money for its plans to improve the health of its urban slum dwellers.

Tagaytay City was given $10,000 for proposals to improve housing, while Marikina City was awarded $5,000 (about P250,000) for its emergency preparedness project.

Japan's Miyakojima City and Australia's Noarlunga City received the Regional Director's Award, an honorary recognition presented to cities that have a track record in sustained improvement of the overall quality of life of their citizens, the WHO statement said.

Miyakojima was commended for programs since 1994 that encourage physical activity. The city has provided walking paths and organized an international triathlon, promoted healthy dietary habits and helped preserve coral reefs and water quality.

Noarlunga's projects since 1987 have tackled health issues linked to unemployment, and monitored activities, water quality and environmental health issues.

More than 400 delegates from 21 countries in the Asia and Pacific are taking part in the Alliance for Healthy Cities' general assembly in Incheon from Saturday to Monday, the WHO said.

The Healthy Cities approach was introduced by WHO nineteen decades ago in the Western Pacific Region, and more than 100 cities have adopted it since then. AP

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
Children gather around a US military officer reading an illustrated book on the 9/11 attacks on the United States, in Marikina City, where the US military is on maneuvers with their Filipino counterparts.

Higher pay for domestics backed

By Jeroome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS of the Philippines yesterday expressed support for the plan of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to double the minimum monthly pay of Filipino domestic helpers to be deployed abroad from $200 to $400.

The TUCP also agreed with the POEA's proposal to raise the minimum age of domestic helpers from 21 to 23.

"The twin measures should help discourage the deployment of young and semi-hooded domestic helpers who are commonly victims of multiple employer abuse," said TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera.

The POEA resolutions on the wage hike and the age requirement is expected to be implemented next month. The resolutions also includes a provision scrapping placement fees in the recruitment of domestics.

Herrera noted that there were already many Filipino domestics abroad who were earning more than $400 a month such as those working in Taiwan, who get the equivalent of P27,000 or about $550/monthly.

The Federated Associations of Manpower Exporters earlier claimed that the higher minimum salary and age requirements might spur the illegal recruitment of more domestic helpers for overseas work.

The claim, however, was "exaggerated," Herrera said, adding that rigorous enforcement was the only real solution to the illegal recruitment of workers.

"Beyond commitment to a law enforcement issue, the only cure may be government to check the problem is by doggedly apprehending, prosecuting and putting behind bars as many illegal recruiters as possible," the former senator said.

Nevertheless, Herrera said that despite the government's Deployment program, which aims to give departing manila skills upgrades and other training to secure better pay, Filipino domestics would remain vulnerable to employers' abuse and their skills could be easily matched by competitors from other countries.

"Domestic helpers are the most vulnerable to employer oppression abroad. This is because, apart from living in the employer's home, maids, no matter how super, have skills that are readily replaceable by other foreign workers," he said.

Besides the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka are also exporting domestic helpers.

Herrera said the TUCP had never been supportive of the deployment of more domestic helpers overseas, saying it would "definitely be better" for the country to be exporting nurses and engineers instead.

The government should, as a matter of policy discourage the overseas deployment of unskilled laborers, in favor of highly skilled ones, he said.

Chinese want RP nurses for teachers

By Alexis Papa

CHINA IS INTERESTED IN HIRING around 500 Filipino nurses to teach there, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said Friday.

CHED Chair Carlito Puno said the Philippines would be sending the first batch of what would eventually be 1,000 nursing students to China next year to share their knowledge in nursing care and hospital work with their Chinese counterparts.

Puno recently visited China where he met with 41 education ministers from all over the world to discuss trends and improvements in cross-border education.

"This [student exchange] is part of a memorandum of understanding between our country and the education ministry of China that would be formalized soon between the two governments," Puno said.

He said one big nursing school in China had expressed interest in hiring Filipino nurses to teach there.

"I can't disclose yet the names of these schools pending the signing of an agreement between our government through CHED and the China government through its education ministry," Puno said.

He said China had "high regard" for Filipino nurses.

"China admitted the quality of Chedu nursing education is not good enough to enable other countries such as the Philippines. China's nursing graduates could barely pass their national licensure examination," he said.

Puno said those who would be sent to China on one-year tours of duty were senior nursing students from two prestigious Philippine schools.

"Those nursing students will spend their last year of studying in different hospitals in China. That's the initial agreement that still has to be signed by both governments. CHED is considering two top schools since the fourth-year nursing students will be sent to China," he said.

Puno also expressed confidence the nursing profession in the country would continue to produce qualified and competent nurses.

Drilon faction seeks TRO

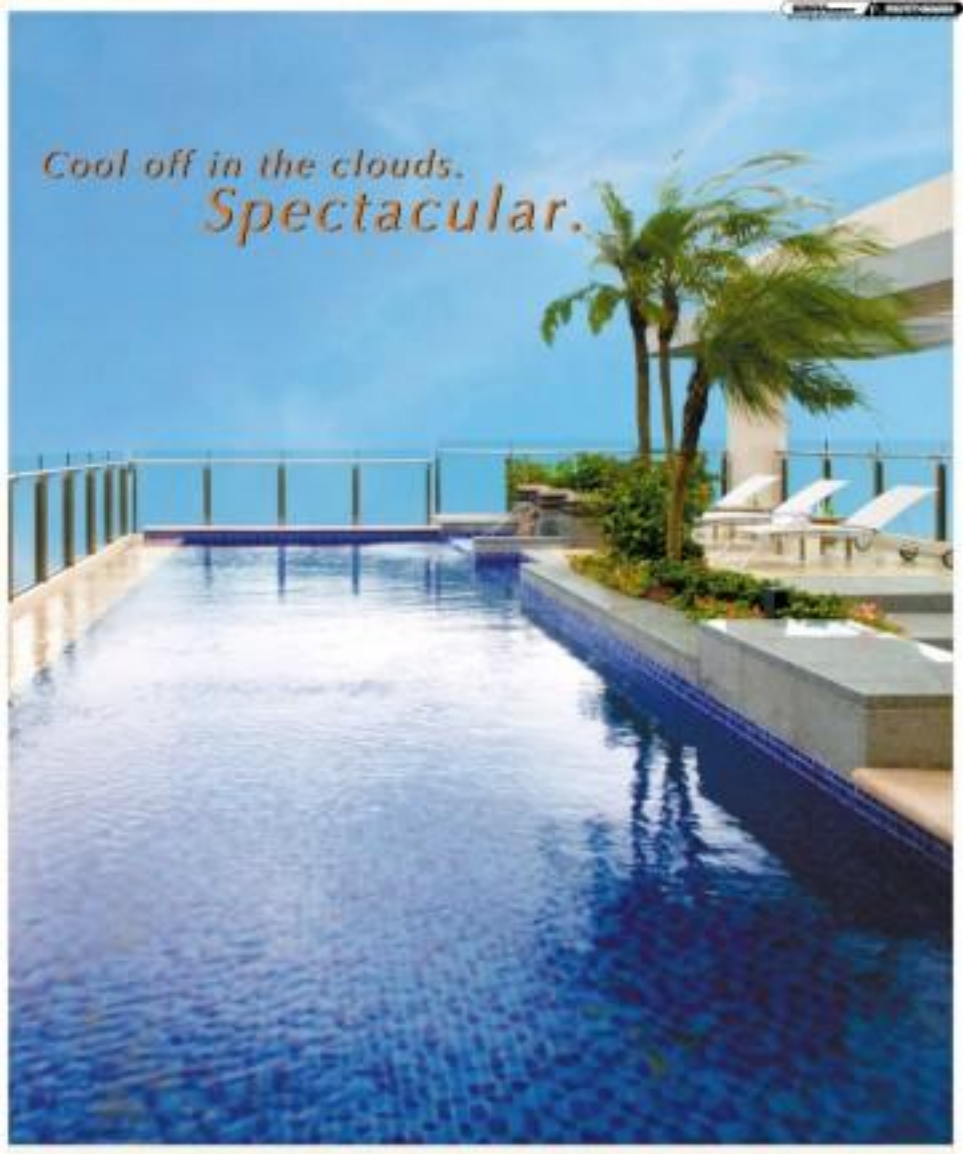
MAGA. CITY—OELIG ging their heroism the "genuine" Liberal Party, the group of Sen. Franklin Drilon on Friday asked the Supreme Court to block the Commission on Election's order to hold a party election on Nov. 15.

Rep. Herminio Teves, the LP-Drilon faction-secretary general, told the Inquirer the group filed a petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) after a meeting Friday.

Acosta assailed the recent Comelec decision that invalidated the party election initiated by the LP faction of Sen. Loren Acosta and ordered that a party election be held.

"We were upheld as the legitimate party but it is not the Comelec to tell us matters institutional to the party like the holding of an election," Acosta said.

The lawmaker said the Drilon group could not participate in the Comelec-ordered party election because they "would be walking into a trap." Jose Rayos del Rosario, Inquirer Southern Luzon



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MALLING: President Arroyo tours SM in Jinjiang City escorted by Hans Sy, the son of SM mall czar Henry Sy. Occupying an area of 170,000 square meters, it is the SM second mall in China. The first SM on Crossroad West in Xiamen opened in 2003. The Sys hope to build one mall a year in China.

COMPATRIOTS AT THE SHRINE: President Arroyo greets Filipinos at the Rizal Park in Jinjiang City, Fujian. The park is a must-see among Pinoys, 88 percent of whom, like Rizal, can trace their roots to Fujian province.

GMA lays wreath at Rizal Shrine in Jinjiang

CHINA'S GIFT TO THE PHILIPPINES: President Arroyo signs the guestbook at the Rizal Park surrounded by City officials of Jinjiang City. The monument was built at a cost of P62 million with counterpart funding of P-3.4 million raised by Filipino-Chinese tycoons led by Lucio Tan.

JINJIANG, CHINA (Via PLDT/SMART)—At exactly noon of the monument of the Philippines' national hero Jose Rizal in the Luanwu Park can be found in the heart of this southern Chinese city standing proudly in anticipation except to the mambo and salsa of Rizal had hoped to inspire in his fellow Filipinos.

It also stands as a remembrance to his great, great grandfather, Dominga Lozano of Chang Uan province, who was once a resident and citizen of China.

On the second day of her official visit to China, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo led a delegation of Philippine officials in a wreath-laying ceremony during the inauguration of the Rizal Shrine in Huaqiao Village, Jinjiang City in Fujian Province.

The Philippine delegation included Consul General Jose Santos Rubio, Congressman Roque Ablan, National Historical Institute Chair Ambeth Ocampo, officers of the Knights of Rizal, Tan-kee-based descendants of Rizal's sister Soledad, and Chinese-Filipino businessmen.

Chinese officials who joined the occasion included Jinjiang City Mayor and Party Secretary Gong Qingkai, and chair of the Jinjiang City People's Congress Tan Zuliang.

The shrine was built in 2002 to commemorate Dr. Rizal's Chinese ancestral roots. It symbolizes the strong bond of friendship between the Philippines and China. During its inauguration, Dr. Severo Balatbat, chair of the shrine "is a great symbol of the 1,000-year-old friendship between our two nations."

The national hero is the direct descendant of Chinese trader Cua Yi Lam, who immigrated from Binalpan ("Chiang Uan" in Mandarin) to the Philippines in the latter part of the 17th century. Church records show that Cua Yi Lam was baptized Domingo Lamco in Manila in 1697 at the age of 22, and fathered his forefather as Binalpan village in China.

The monument, made of the world famous Jinjiang granite stones, stands at 18.61 meters high, which is taller than the 12-meter high Rizal Monument in Manila. It was built on a five-hectare park owned by Rizal's home, making it the biggest Rizal Shrine outside the Philippines. The park will also be the site of a Rizal museum and library.

The success of the project can be attributed to the combined efforts of the Chua family Association where Rizal class his Chinese lineage, the Kilusang Sun ex Kinabuhin, headed by Prof. Teresita Ang-See, which provided assistance in research and assistance, Philippine Airlines chair Lucio Tan, who headed the project committee working group, the Ruby Foundation, the Knights of Rizal, the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, the Jinjiang village and the city administration of Jinjiang City that arranged funding for the project, the Fujian Provincial Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and the Quanzhou Municipal Government.

GMA calls for joint Sino-RP exploration . . .

From page A1

meeting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation."

"[This could be done] by handling sensitive issues with surrounding countries in a manner that is guided by the spirit of equality respect, consultation and mutual benefit," the President said.

Arroyo said the government was impressed with the record of Xiamen Electric after they were informed that the Chinese power firm supplies electricity to about 60 percent of Manila's total land area.

Xiamen Electric registered a net income of $89 million last year.

To join bidding for Transco

In Jinjiang City officials of China's state grid, Xiamen Electric said they would join the bidding for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), which owns and operates the power transmission facilities in the Philippines and is said to be the crown jewel among the country's state corporations, scheduled this December.

Officials of Xiamen Electric relayed their interest to Transco when they met with President Arroyo on Friday.

The President had been pitching for increased Chinese investments in the Philippines since arriving in China on her first day for a visit to certain provinces and to attend the Asean-China commemorative summit.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Mrs Arroyo's meeting with officials of Xiamen Electric was one of several productive meetings she had in fact but for increased Chinese investments in the Philippines while here on a visit.

"They're one of several bidders who's interested in buying Transco and the meeting was, actually they were selling themselves," Bunye told reporters.

Bunye said the government was impressed with the record of Xiamen Electric after they were informed that the Chinese power firm supplies electricity to about 60 percent of Manila's total land area.

Xiamen Electric registered a net income of $89 million last year.

Mining firm

"I guess from the point of view of economics, they would be a very suitable candidate but, then again, that would have to be a subject of bidding," Bunye said.

Another potential investor from China is the Sichuan Group, one of the biggest mining firms in China.

Officials of Sichuan told President Arroyo in Xiamen the other day that they were interested to invest in the former nickel mines in Surigao City.

The other day the government signed with Philnico Industrial Corp. and the Sichuan Group, Basuori Group Corp and the China Development Bank a memorandum of understanding that would pave the way for the development and exploration of the former nickel mines.

Bunye said the Sichuan group had sought and got assistance from the President in terms of being registered as a Philippine Export Zone Authority (Peza) company and getting the support from local executives in Surigao.

Biggest single investment

He said the President assured the Sichuan officials of the cooperation of local executives "because it is in the interest of Surigao to be able to invite these substantial investments when the President down did an the biggest single investment in China."

While in Jinjiang, President Arroyo visited the Jinjiang, one of two SM malls that were put up by Filipino-Chinese tycoon Henry Sy in China.

Mrs Arroyo and her delegation dropped by SM after she led a wreath laying ceremony at the Rizal shrine. A group of students lined up to greet her and her entourage while a band later on played the Philippine National Anthem.

The President then headed to the nearby SM mall with its structure and architectural design no different from that in the Philippines. At one corner in the mall, the SM cinemas were also hosted being played in Chinese.

President Arroyo was supposed to visit Xiamen City but her visit was cancelled for security reasons, according to President-in-Charge Georgi Bunye Cid, Bunye-Francisca.

Arms for Farms deal turns rebels into farmers, fishermen

From page A1

guns and bring out their bolos instead," Lorenz told Ms Arroyo.

In the televised program, the former rebels described how former MNLF rebels who told her that they got their current jobs as allies of government had when current operated by Lorenz passed by their areas and sought them out.

By planning and eventually selling coconuts, jackfruit and soya, Hadji Mahakil told the President that he was able to send to school four of his six children.

No turning back

Ruben Ugong, on the other hand, said he was among those who pursued to Basi out that under the program, he would get 139 percent of the harvests from his land.

Ugong told the President that he had 2 hectares of land's but had not been planted or tilled for the past 13 years, but now he had his first harvest.

Hadji on also behalf is doing gun debt long ago and is enrolled in his 8 will out go back to the old smuggle because my children are now in school," he told Mrs Arroyo.

Lorenz told reporters that he started the program in late 2004 and intended to have some 20,000 hectares of land cleared and planted to crops by 2007.

Bank loan

He said he sought a loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines to purchase tractors, farming equipment and planting materials so he distributed to MNLF members who would want to get into farming.

He also said 20 percent of his province's development funds.

Asked whether members of the Abu Sayyaf were benefiting from the program, he said they did but they were mostly family members.

"One of the objectives is to diminish the numbers of the Abu Sayyaf," Lorenz said.

Asked why the program did not allow the outright confiscation of arms from former rebels, he admitted this was difficult to do.

Lorenz said they could only discourage former rebels from carrying arms and urge them to focus on farming.

US elections are filthy, as in germs, parasites

From page A1

glad-handing and flesh-pressing.

"You can't always get on stage to watch your hands," said Anna Hayes, wife of Rep. Jim Ryan (Republican, Kansas).

Hands would be the unduly appendages that transmit infectious disease.

Dollops for veep

Like so many other people interviewed in public these days, most Americans become obsessive about using hand sanitizer and ensuring that others do, too. She squirted Purell, the antiseptic gunge of choice on the campaign trail with proclaimed killer of "99.99 percent of most common germs that may cause illness," or purple fluid up to meet Vice President Dick Cheney this month at a fundraiser in Topeka.

Pfizer Cheney runs done running and greeting, he, too, rubbed his hands vigorously with the stuff, dispensed to dollops by an aide when the vice president was out of public view.

That has become routine in this germ season of handshaking, practiced by everyone from the most powerful leaders to the lowliest hopefuls. It would be difficult to find an entourage that does not have at least one aide pushing Purell.

Which some people find extremely hard to instill.

"It's condescending to the voters," said Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, a Democrat.

A fervent eschewer of hand sanitizers, Richardson holds the Guinness Book of World Records mark for shaking the most hands over an eight-hour period (13,392, at the New Mexico State Fair in 2002).

Still, politics can be an especially dirty place to exist.

"Every time you're with big groups of people, you're going to be exposed to flus/colds, adenoviruses and the organisms that cause gastroenteritis," said Jim Tom Gibson, (R-Okla.-homa), a physician.

Doctor's immunity

Cubera said he washed his hands whenever possible, but did not use any antigerm lotions. Being a doctor, he said, he has been exposed to more bugs and, thus, enjoys greater immunity than most other people.

Purell, which is made by GOJO Industries of Akron, Ohio, came on the market as a consumer product in 1997 and became popular in campaign vans, holding rallies and traveling kept in the 2000 campaign.

That year, Al Gore turned his running mate, Joseph I. Lieberman, on to sanitizers.

Richardson said that if he ran for president, as he is mumbling, he had an incentive of volunteering to the success of his antigerm powers.

"I just want ahead to get my hands dirty," he said. New York Times

Cops, NBI tracking groups suspected of faking coins

By Tina G. Santos
and Nikko Dizon

POLICE AND NBI operatives are hunting the members of two syndicates, including foreign nationals, believed to be behind the manufacture, use and distribution of up to P140 million in counterfeit coins.

This after the NBI busted a counterfeiting operation in Barangay Dolo (Dolores), Malolos City, last week, seizing P5 million worth of fake P5 and P10 coins.

Also seized in the operation were capable of making P5 million to fake P5 and P10 coins a week, said Roland Bagalacsa, head agent of the NBI's Field Operations Division.

"The operation started as early as April so it is possible the group had already released P140 million worth of counterfeit coins," he said. Also seized during the raid were an air compressor, a coin counter, a wire coin counter, a set of P5 coin dies/engraving plates, a dye chamber, a pressing and stamping machine, and a packaging and polishing machine.

On Wednesday, operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested six persons in Quezon City including one Wong Ging Qian of Fujian, China, for reportedly circulating the fake money. They recovered 2,000 counterfeit P5 coins.

CIDG chief Director Jesus Verzosa said the operation of the six might "involve a bigger racket and syndicated dimensions with international connections."

Another related raid on a suspected Malabon hideout, however, yielded negative results.

"We have been studying this suspect for a long time. We are finding it difficult to track them down because this syndicate operates in a compartmentalized fashion. One group within the syndicate is responsible for producing the fake coins while another group distributes the coins," said CIDG operative PO2 Alan Ardillo.

Meanwhile, CIDG team leader Senior Insp. Dexter Velasco quoted a new spy on how to detect the fake P5 coins: Look at the eye on the portrait of late Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo. He said the fake coins have different lettering, the texture of the fake coins was rougher and they were lighter in weight.

DTI removes surcharges on credit cards

ATTENTION CREDIT CARD HOLDERS: IT IS NOW illegal for shop owners to place a surcharge on goods and services purchased with a credit card.

Beginning Nov. 1, retailers caught imposing the extra charges could face up to six months in prison, Trade and Industry Secretary Rep. Joseph Santiago said on Friday.

The lawmaker issued the warning after the Department of Trade and Industry finally issued on Oct. 16 Administrative Order No. 10 banning credit card surcharges.

The order categorically prohibits the use of two price tags—one indicating a "cash price" and another designating a "card price"—for the same products or services.

"We definitely welcome the DTI order, which comes in time for the Christmas shopping season," said Santiago, who first sought a ban on the additional charges two years ago.

"The imposition of an extra charge of five to 10 percent on consumers paying by way of credit cards is just plain extortion," Santiago said. The surcharges, he added, were "usually exorbitant, disturbing and unethical."

Nearly five million Filipinos now carry credit cards, according to the Credit Card Association of the Philippines.

Santiago said the administrative order gives more teeth to the Consumer Act, or Republic Act No. 7394.

Merchants found violating the order face one to six months in prison, or a fine of up to P5,000. A second conviction would result in the revocation of the shop's business license.

Angel Jobero, DTI assistant secretary, said it was the policy of the department to protect the interest of consumers, promote their general welfare and establish standards of conduct for business and industry. Michael Lim Ubac

Peewee: Acting mayor can't fire city employees

SUSPENDED PASIG CITY MAYOR PRISCILLA "Princess" Trinidad yesterday assured employees of Mayor Alfredo Sheriffgan that he has no power to terminate their employment.

"Binisita pa nga ni Vice Mayor Sheriffgan ang mga tao sa munisipyo. Ang sabi niya, wala siyang kapangyarihan na tanggalin ang mga empleyado," Trinidad told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

He said the contractual, casual and coterminous employees he had hired were civil service eligibles and were in permanent status.

They were assigned to various offices like the regional trial courts, the fiscal's office, and the traffic and health offices, he said.

"They were doing technical jobs that require skills. What will happen if they will be hiring new employees and I go back?" he said.

He said coterminous employees could be only terminated after his term, which, he stressed, has not ended.

Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calma and 21 city councilors were suspended for six months by the Department of the Interior and Local Government for illegally entering into anomalous garbage collection and disposal contracts in 2004 and 2005.

"Truly this is a climax of power lust and acting insane," he said.

Several of the employees had come to him for help, he said.

A clue on changing the acting officials with illegal termination and abuse of authority was being prepared by the employees.

"I told them that they should go ahead and use the proper forum," Trinidad said.

The mayor could not be reached for comment at times but he would not answer any of the phone calls. Jaydee G. Ey

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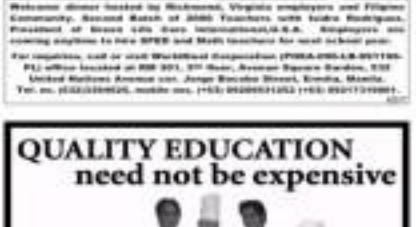

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For Filipino conquerors of Mt. Everest, adulation good 'but we need cash'

By Fe B. Zamora

COMBINED TO RAISING FUNDS for next year's expedition on Mt. Everest, climbing the world's tallest peak just 'fling' into a walk in the park, First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) leader Art Valdez said yesterday.

"Climbing Mt. Everest excites, thrills and fascinates you people but they will not part with their money to finance a venture like this," Valdez said in an interview.

"We have been feted as heroes, with red carpets and memorandos. But after the photo ops, wala na! that's it," he said.

Just six months ago, Herardos Ong, also the first city councilor, became the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, at over 8,000 meters the world's highest peak.

The following day May 18, Erwin "Twister" Emata and and Rene Candawan also made it to the top one after the other.

Achievers

Valdez, the three summiteers and the other members of the 14-man Philippine climbing expedition were among the achievers cited by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the Batasang Pambansa complex.

For their attempts at the Sona, Valdez said Malacañang sent the team two cakes.

"We ate the cakes heartily," Valdez, a former transportation and communication undersecretary said.

For the climbing season next year, Valdez and Emata will lead the "serious climb" on Mt. Everest, with one team climbing from Nepal and the other from Tibet.

Mariano climbers Sabina Reyes-Jose, Noelle Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino will be joining the team. One of them would be the first Filipina woman to reach the summit, Valdez said.

First woman

Valdez said Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia also were readying expeditions to put the first woman from an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) country on top of the mountain next year.

Valdez said the 15-member expedition would need at least P15 million, an amount the team has been trying to raise for past months.

He said the team had sponsors for their plane tickets, insurance, climbing gear and equipment but what they needed was cash.

He said the money would go to pay for climbing permits, Sherpa guide fees and upkeep during their two-month stay in Nepal and Tibet for acclimatization, as well as the actual climb in May.

He said climbing permits alone could run as much as $30,000 per climber, while guide fees are $5,000 per Sherpa, with hoasses if they reach the summit.

"We all have our own Mt. Everest. This is our financial Everest," Valdez said.

He said the team will not give up for lack of funds. "We will not go around with begging bowls, but we will find ways."

"This is another Everest that we will overcome," he added.

The team has been selling souvenir items like T-shirts, mugs and caps on its website http://www.philippine-everest.com.

Negotiations are also afoot for climbers to provide advertising spots with the mountaineers' photos or video from specific sites on Everest.

Before the year ends, the team might also auction off...as a promotion—some of the cherished items they used in their historic climb on Mt. Everest from March to May this year.

Tried and tested

He said each item had been "tried and tested" on Everest.

"The items have seen the snow," he said. Some of the items, like ice axes, harnesses, jackets, compasses, caps, thermal suits and sleeping bags, also had sentimental value.

"Mountain climbing is a very risky adventure. The possibility of not coming back is always there, that's why any token we get back," he said.

The FPMEE's successful climb in May proved that Filipinos can do it, if they observe "unity and teamwork," Valdez said.

B. Cappleman, Ifugao gov; 62

BAGUIO CITY—IFUGAO GOV. BENJAMIN Cappleman succumbed to lung cancer on Thursday. He was 62.

Cappleman died at home in Banaue, according to Vevey Balayangan, provincial director of the Philippine Information Agency.

Both Cappleman, his daughter, said the governor had been confined at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City as soon as his doctors detected the disease.

"But he requested precautions so he asked to be brought home to Banaue (a few days ago). I think he knew he was dying," she told the Inquirer.

Cappleman will be buried beside his wife in Banaue on Nov. 5.

A former public school teacher, Cappleman entered politics in 1980 when he was elected mayor of Banaue. He became Ifugao governor in 1988 and later representative in 1992. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 29, 2006
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hymn from exile

So Yahweh says this: Shout with joy for Jacob,
rejoice for the greatest of nations.
Proclaim your praise and say:
"Yahweh has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel!"

LOOK, I will bring them back from the land of the north, gather them from the ends of the earth, the lame and the blind, mothers and women in labor—a great throng will return.
They came in weeping,
they will return in joy.
I will lead them by the streams of water, on a level path so that no one will stumble.
For I am Israel's father
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 1-6

A priest forever

Every High Priest is taken from among mortals and appointed to act for them in matters that have God as their concern, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin. He is able to understand the ignorant and wrong, for he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he is bound to offer sacrifices for his sins as well as for the sins of the people. Besides, one does not presume to take this dignity, but rather is duly called by God, as Aaron was.

So, too, Christ did not claim High Priest's rank by taking upon himself this dignity, but it was given to him by the One who said: You are my son, I have begotten you today. And in another place: You are a priest forever in the priestly order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by, he began to call out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!" Many people scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man saying, "Take heart. Get up, he is calling you." He instantly threw off his cloak, jumped up and went to Jesus.

Then Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Master, let me see again!" And Jesus said to him, "On your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he could see, and he followed Jesus along the road.

Commentary:

We are called to rejoice and shout out the praise of God for all nations to hear. Jeremiah thought we are a remnant of God's people returning home. And we are a motley crew: lame, blind, mothers, women in labor, weeping, coming from every where, led to waters of life. Our God and Father is merciful among us. Knowing weakness with us, bound to us and offering sacrifices with us and for us as beloved children of the Father's love! Are we careful of those among us that are blind, welcoming the Word, seeking Jesus? Or are we like the disciples seeking to keep others quiet, keeping Jesus to ourselves? Bartimaeus begins to follow Jesus up the road, the way of the Cross—have we begun that journey or are we still busy keeping others away from Jesus, or still caught begging?

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Unfair exchange

THE IRONY OF THE SITUATION COULD NOT HAVE been lost on anyone except those who refuse to see it. In exchange for providing life-saving professionals, like doctors and nurses, the Philippines would be getting death-dealing substances from Japan. By no measure can it be said to be a fair exchange, but that is likely to happen once the two countries implement the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

EDITORIAL

The Agreement, as "all-trade pact" covering all products and services produced in both countries, was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on Sept. 9 this year. Touted as a major step toward economic integration, JPEPA lists down 11,380 items or "tariff lines" that can be exchanged between the two countries. Among those items, exactly 161 have been identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as "environmentally sensitive products deemed potentially hazardous to health and the environment if not handled properly," included in the list of "potentially hazardous" items to be traded are ash and residue containing arsenic, mercury or thallium, ash from the incineration of municipal waste, clinical waste, filter used surgical gloves, adhesive dressing and gauze) and dioxin of other poisonous chemicals, pollutants and ozone-depleting substances.

Administration officials, however, say there is no reason for alarm. Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, who headed the Philippine negotiating panel, said JPEPA does not necessarily mean that such hazardous wastes and substances can be brought into the country. The Philippines "would allow only trade to regulated—and not prohibited—wastes allowed under Philippine laws," he assured. Environment Undersecretary Demetria Ignacio also said the pact would not violate Philippine laws because toxic wastes and substances that are banned by them cannot be brought into the country. "The objective of the Philippines was to get JPEPA approved," he said, and the environment is not going to be sacrificed "because the pact has no effect on our laws."

Fine. But if there is no intention of circumventing these environmental laws, why did our trade negotiators insist on retaining those contentious items on the list, over the strong objections of the DENR, at least initially? In July last year, then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor wrote the trade secretary that the DENR was "for the exclusion from trading under JPEPA of all wastes and scraps prohibited for trade under the Basel Convention and/or under our national laws." He said the DENR also favored the defining of prohibited ozone-depleting substances and chemicals. The Basel Convention bans all exports of hazardous wastes from industrialized members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD member countries.

Ignacio revealed that the DENR was forced to yield on the issue after it was made to understand that JPEPA was "an all-or-nothing proposition, that if we don't agree on one or two products, there would be no agreement." But if Japan had no intention of invoking the provision allowing the shipment of toxic waste, why would it throw out the whole treaty unless that provision was retained?

Are administration officials saying this somehow they were able to put one over their Japanese counterparts by agreeing to keep a provision that is, for all intents and purposes, a dead letter? Unbelievable, both because the Japanese negotiators could not have been so dumb and because our own officials could not have been so transparently duplicitous.

More ludicrous is the claim of environmentalists that our people's health is being traded for any opening Japan is willing to give to our health professionals and other workers. Ignacio has said that "one of the most critical items in JPEPA was the trade in services, allowing our overseas workers and our health professionals in Japan—this was very important to the Philippines."

Fortunately for the whole nation, even if the pact has been signed by the President, it isn't a done deal yet. It still has to go to the Senate for ratification, and several senators have promised to go over it very closely. Given the high stakes involved, the Filipino people should keep a close watch on how the senators go about this task.

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Round 2

SEPARATE OPINION

Dagmar A. Cruz

THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT dismissing the Cha-cha petition was received with much elation by the people who were already worried that the determined campaign of the administration would persuade the majority of the justices to commit it.

Up to the very morning the verdict was announced last Wednesday, Speaker Jose de Venecia had published a full-page paid advertisement disparaging about the benefits to the country the parliamentary system would produce like Brazilian dreaming the Angrauxian idea.

He was hoping to create undecided in many that the Cha-cha would restore the blessings of the High Tribunal and created the political outlook of President Macapagal-Arroyo—and his son—as the hearts of the new government they would establish by mangling the present Constitution.

One can only imagine the individual appeals the Speaker must have made to coax the fair in remedy of his perhaps their own with the most impressive arguments raised publicly, and presumably also privately, by Mr. Cha-cha. Add to these the illimitable resources of the government at their back and call, and you have a pay germane not formidable to resist.

The two leaders were pulling out all the stops in guarantee the success of the Cha-cha and their political hymn depended on it. As in fact it did. Their followers confidently expected that the terms would continue one way or the other. That Cha-cha may have bested them is to true, it has not yet been finally lost. There are probably enrolling with much bravado the defeated cliché that they have only begun to fight.

I recall the 1989 case of Marcos v. Manglapus, 177 SCRA 668, that excited the nation with the unprecedented question of whether the dictator and his family could be barred from returning to their country after escaping from the people's wrath during Edsa I. As in the Cha-cha case, the question was decided also by an 8-7 vote, but with the important consequence that it was generally accepted by the people.

Significantly, all the members of the Supreme Court then had been appointed by President Corazon Aquino. In the recently only one vote. The decision was never reversed because the opponents did not feel directly and personally involved in the planned return of the despot who no longer commanded even the terror and alienation. The powerful arguments of the dissenting justices proved to be only theoretical rather than compulsive.

It is different with the present case because President Arroyo has not been sustained by the Supreme Court, unlike President Aquino who was. Edsa is not likely to meekly accept the setback because it will obstruct her schemes to remain in power with her legal immunities intact. Unlike the Marcos decision, which did not directly affect or at least was disinterestedly received by the ousters, the present case before you appeals to actively resisted by its conspirators who foresees the end of their own political privileges.

The margin of only 1 vote against the Cha-cha petition is not that difficult to overcome in favor of the former. In the case of Secretary of Justice v. Lantion, 343 SCRA 377, the original decision was reconsidered and reversed after by an 8-6 vote. The protestors of the initiative are probably hoping that a motion for reconsideration may will sustain their petition and reinstate their march to the new regime they will continue to dominate and consume.

One important fact not apprehended by many people is that there will be one vacancy in the Supreme Court on Dec. 7 with the compulsory retirement of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

What the Arroyo camp can do is delay the filling of its motion for reconsideration and the resultant enhancement of the injured pleadings of the parties—plus the usual argument that may even be scheduled—until President Arroyo can appoint a new justice only 40 days from today. If that can be arranged and the final vote on the motion for reconsideration is scheduled after the new member shall have been installed, he can then join the present 7 vote minority and make it the winning side.

All this can and will happen, however, only if the present 8 justices against the Cha-cha will stand firm in preserving the otherwise possible strategy of the Arroyo camp to delay and ultimately reverse the original decision in the Cha-cha case. Chief Justice Panganiban, who has been voted against the Philippine people. He should show that a leader, especially of the Supreme Court, has the vision and the courage to lead.

Healed and free

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE TAKING UP SHEARING these days. I heard about a husband who took up tanning recently. His children are now proudly telling their playmates that they have a "tanning" father!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 10: 46-52), we hear about Saint Bartimeus, who at the beginning of the story "sat by the roadside begging," was cured of his blindness. After he was healed by Jesus, he became a disciple, and "followed Him on the way." Jesus asked him whether there was something true healing is that which enables a disabled or an incapacitated person to move on. If we remain stagnant, if we do not move on, it means we are still blind, we are still imprisoned and we have not been truly healed.

* * *

I have met people who have received the gift of physical healing, but go back to their old bad habits soon after. I have encountered people who have witnessed miracles, and yet do not move on to become better persons. Today, let us ask the Lord to help us see spiritually that He is calling us here, and let us, in obedience follow Him to where and what He is calling us to. May the Lord help us not only to see, but also to move on.

* * *

Today is Prison Awareness Sunday. Have you ever been in prison? Have you ever visited a prisoner? Aside from the heavy fortress stench, there is the stench of stagnancy and hopelessness of spirit that one smells in a prison. Let us not just the prisoners by. Let us give them hope and a helping hand.

* * *

Most of us have our prisons within. Let us ask the Lord to help us see, accept and break out from those identified as self-made prisons that prevent us from moving on—especially our prisons of fear, greed, lust and insecurities that make us cruel to ourselves in the coping world around us, and blind to the graces which God our Father has for us.

* * *

It is the blind who help us see. St. John Chrysostom, a Father of the Church, said: "Let us not be afraid to be poor, for it is the rich who are in need. Let us not be afraid to be hungry, for it is the rich who will be starved. Let us not be afraid to weep, for it is the rich who will be made to laugh. Let us not be afraid to be hated, for it is the rich who will be persecuted. Let us not be afraid to be reviled, for it is the rich who will be dishonored."

* * *

Let us not be afraid to be poor, to be hungry, to weep, to be hated, to be reviled, to be dishonored, to be persecuted, to be crucified, to be killed, to be buried, to be forgotten, to be ignored, to be rejected, to be abandoned, to be betrayed, to be denied

The Battle of Leyte Gulf

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—MANY OF US REMEMBER Dec. 22, 1944 as the date of the Leyte landings, which brought back to the Philippines American forces under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, more than two years after the fall of Bataan and Corregidor. He perhaps was low of as an overstatement the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation was at one time only part of the grand strategy of allied forces in the Pacific theater of operations. The US Navy under Admiral Ernest King, was in favor of bypassing the Philippines and mopping up Japanese troops in Formosa in the drive toward the Japanese mainland. But General MacArthur was determined to redeem the "I shall return" pledge he made when he left Corregidor in May 1942, and he argued for the liberation of the Philippines. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a formal meeting with JCS military leaders supported MacArthur's position.

By November of 1944, 20 was set for the Leyte invasion. But because of formidable intelligence exposes, this date was moved forward by two months—to Dec. 20.

In an earlier column this year, I said that in hindsight, perhaps it might have been more beneficial for the Philippines if the US Navy position of bypassing us had prevailed; we might have been spared the deadly and devastating battle for the liberation of Manila, which resulted in the horrendous destruction of the city and the loss of 100,000 civilians and the needless deaths of Japanese Marines who remained behind to defend the city. Manila might not have suffered as much physical destruction from both the defenders and the liberating forces.

But the Japanese, it must be said, chose the battle of Leyte Gulf; was fought—at sea and on land by many historians as the greatest naval battle of World War II and, by some, as history's greatest naval engagement.

For

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jcervantes@inquirer.com.ph

Cito Juan P. Cervantes Jr.

SC ruling on 'people's initiative'

THE INITIATIVE PETITION DOES NOT comply with Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution on direct proposal by the people.

Section 2, Article XVII is the governing constitutional provision that allows a people's initiative to propose amendments to the Constitution. This section states:

"Sec. 2. Amendments to the Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters thereof. x x x."

The deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission reveal that the framers of the Constitution intended the initiative clause to refer to proposals by the people through initiative upon a petition.

Clearly, the framers of the Constitution intended the initial step of the people's constitutional amendment should be "ready and mature" to the people "before" they sign such proposal. The framers plainly meant that "before" they sign there is already a draft clause to be proposed. The framers plainly meant that "before" the people should sign on the proposal itself because the proponents must "propose that proposal and place a second for signature."

Full text

The essence of amendments "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition" is that the entire proposal on its face is a petition for the people to sign. This essence of direct proposal by the people is lost if the full text of the proposed amendments is not shown on the face of the petition for the people to sign. The proponents must gather and then sign the entire proposal. Not signed are representatives but signed are their beliefs. Second, as mandated by the petition, the proposal must be embodied in a petition.

Thus, umbrella clauses are present only if the full text of the proposed amendments is first embodied in the petition. Otherwise, the petition does not have the merit of a petition for the people to sign signifying their complete proposal in a petition. Thus, an amendment is "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition" only if the entire text of the proposal is in the petition that will be signed by the people.

The full text of the proposed amendments may not appear on the face of the petition, yet attached to it for the people to sign, but they must state the fact of such attachment. This is an assurance that every one of the several millions of signatories to the petition had seen the full text of the proposed amendments before signing. Otherwise, it is physically impossible, given the time constraints, to prove that every one of the millions of signatories had seen the full text of the proposed amendments before signing.

The framers of the Constitution directly intended the concept of people's initiative from the United States where various State constitutions allow initiatives on amendments. The Supreme Court of States, which allow initiatives petitions, for unending reassurance it told the people must first see the full text of the proposed amendments before they sign the petition, and that the people must sign on an initiative petition that includes the full text of the proposed amendment.

Potential for fraud

The rationale for this requirement has been repeatedly explained in several decisions of various courts. Thus, in Legislature v. State Reapportionment Commission, 126 Me. 172, 136 A. 623, a decision, affirmed by the First Circuit Court of Appeals, declared:

"[A] signature requires no valid consideration, and it is easy for a canvasser to deceive a voter into signing a petition that is not what he thinks it is or else is signing for a different purpose. Moreover, the interpretation of the subscription requirements can pose a significant potential for fraud."

Thus, the people should not sign on petitions only after reading the full text of the proposed amendments. Otherwise, they are not sure what it is about he or she is signing. Further, and more importantly, from interpretation of the subscription requirements can pose a significant potential for fraud.

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Misleading

Moreover, "an initiative signer must be informed at the time of signing of the nature and effect of that which a proposed" and failure to do so is "deceptive and misleading" which renders the petition void.

Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution does not expressly state that the petition must set forth the full text of the proposed amendments. However, the deliberations of the framers of our Constitution clearly show that the framers intended to adopt the relevant American jurisprudence on people's initiative. In particular, the framers of the Constitution explicitly stated that the framers intended that the people must first see the full text of the proposed amendments before they sign, and thus the petition must either be a petition containing such full text. Indeed, Section 2(b) of Republic Act No. 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Act, that the Initiative Clause mandates be valid, requires that the petition must sign the "petition x x x as appearing."

The proponents of the initiative ... accuse the signatures in which private signatories and not as public officials. The proponents of the initiative petition who can reasonably explain the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed amendments to the people. The proponents present their petition to the people for signing and do not present the signatories against their proposal. The proponents, or their supporters, often pay those who gather the signatures. Thus, there is no presumption that the proponents observed the constitutional requirements in gathering the signatures.

The proponents raise the freedom of petitioning the government as the reason why initiative signatures in gathering the signatures ... that the petition circulated, or incorporated by attachment, the full text of the proposed amendments.

The Lambino Group did not attach to their petition forms with this Court a copy of the signature sheet that the people signed in their initiative petition. The Lambino Group submitted not to this Court a copy of a signature sheet after the mid-registration of Sept. 30, when they filed their supplemental petition on Oct. 25. The signature sheet with the Court during the mid-registration was the signature sheets in support of the registration in other provinces filed on Sept. 7 (annexes) then Quirino-Quezon.

The signature sheet attached to Quintos's opposition and the signature sheet were attached to the Lambino Group's Memorandum are the same.

There is not a single word, phrase, or statement of the people in the Lambino Group's proposed changes in the signature sheet. Neither does the signature sheet state that the text of the proposed changes is attached or is incorporated in the signature sheet. Neither does the signature sheet state that the petition is on the reverse page.

Signature sheet not petition

The signature sheet merely asks a question whether the people approve a draft that the to convert prohibited to the concurrent parliamentary system of government. The signature sheet does not show to the people the draft of the proposed changes before they are asked to sign the signature sheet. Clearly, the signature sheet is not the "petition" that the framers of the Constitution contemplated when they formulated the initiative clause in Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution.

Petitioner Lambino, however, emphasizes that during the signature-gathering there is always an "unwritten rule" that the people sign the petition with the signature sheets, printed copies of the Lambino Group's draft petition which they have filed on Aug. 15 with the Commission on Elections. Petitioner stated it is a practice that contains the draft of their amended petition filed on Aug. 16 with the Comelec. Lambino initially replied that they circulated both. However, he changed his answer and admitted that they circulated only the signature sheet. Lambino claimed that they circulated the draft after Aug. 30 amended petition, not the draft of the Aug. 23 petition.

The Lambino Group would have this Court believe that they prepared the draft of Aug. 30 amended petition almost seven months earlier in February when they entered gathering signatures. Petitioner Atty. S. Ausencio Arellano testified that "the draft" of the Aug. 23 petition as well as of the Aug. 30 amended petition, filed with the Comelec, states as follows:

"Those counted the preparation of the foregoing amended petition is the work of lawyers for the registered voters for and on behalf of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, as shown by [the] Resolution No. 2006-02 herein submitted, and as approved at the mid-registration of the petitioners at the Quirino Grandstand."

The Lambino Group failed to attach a copy of this Duly authorized by the present petition (Annex ..., the "Official Website of the Union of local Authorities of the Philippines") and Resolution No. 2006-02 does not authorize petitioners or representatives to prepare the Aug. 23 petition, or the Aug. 30 amended petition, filed with the Comelec. Atty. Rosendo Ong, Lambino Group's counsel, admitted that the paragraph 4 of the Consolidated Oct. Commission on Elections Charge through people's initiative and referendum as a mode of amending the 1987 Constitution does not differ from the proposed changes of the Lambino Group in the Aug. 23 petition or Aug. 30 amended petition filed with the Comelec.

Impact on judiciary

An example, the proponents' revisions of the Constitution Commission differ all proclamations of the existing Constitution. Were the preamble to the new constitution's provisions. The proponents' revisions have profound impacts on the judiciary and the national parliamentary provisions of the existing Constitution's provisions that the Lambino Group's proposed changes in effect only Articles VI and VII of the existing Constitution, including the introduction of new qualifications to provisions.

The Ulap adopted Resolution No. 2006-02 on Oct. 14 (a week) than six months before the filing of the Aug. 23 petition or the Aug. 30 amended petition with the Comelec. The Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 does not contain the final Ulap or the Lambino Group counsel was consultations of the draft petition, together with the signature sheets, the signatures before the Lambino Group's draft petition. On the contrary Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 vests great doubt on the Lambino Group's claim that they circulated the draft petition with the signature sheets. Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 does not refer at all to the draft petitions or to the Lambino Group's proposed changes.

The authorization explaining its amended petition before the Comelec, the Lambino Group declared:

"After the petitions are filed, petitioners informally inform the public of the proposed amendments adopted in the petitions, more specifically, paragraph 7(a) Section 4 and paragraph 2 of Section 5 of the amendments to the Constitution and the people sign the petitions x x x signatures."

The proponents of the initiative ... accuse the signatories in which private signatories and not as public officials. The proponents of the initiative petition who can reasonably explain the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed amendments to the people. The proponents present their petition to the people for signing and do not present the signatories against their proposal. The proponents, or their supporters, often pay those who gather the signatures. Thus, there is no presumption that the proponents observed the constitutional requirements in gathering the signatures.

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Afterthought

It is unlikely the signatories sought to other appendices to the petition that the Lambino Group had claimed that it is stated the "petition for initiative filed with the Comelec." thus.

[T]here is petitioner authority is the effect that "before the [signatories] [they] signed which did not read the measure attached or a referendum petition cannot question his signature on the ground that he did not understand the nature of the act." Ohio ex rel. Davis v. Hildebrant, 241 U.S. 565, 568, 36 S. Ct. 708, 60 L. Ed. 1172 (1916). Thus, the signatories when signed the signature sheets circulated together with the petitions for initiative filed with the Comelec. Clearly, the signatories did not understand the proposition contained in the petition.

The Lambino Group's statement that it circulated to the people "the petition for initiative" filed with the Comelec" appears an afterthought, made after the unanswerable argument that of the Philippines Cebu City chapter and Cebu province disagreed and Quezon local petition and that the signatories did not circulate the text of the proposed changes. In its consolidated reply, the Lambino Group alleged that it circulated "the petition for initiative" but failed to mention the proposed changes. In petitioner's claim what Lambino finally states is finding the proposed changes. Petitioner has not presented signatories that what the group circulated was the draft of the amended petition of Aug. 30.

Doubtful

It is extremely doubtful that the Lambino Group circulated, printed and circulated, from February to August during the signature-gathering period, the draft of the Aug. 30 amended petition filed with the Comelec. The group is not then capable with this Court to be believed claim that it printed and circulated, together with the signature sheets, the draft of the amended petition. Nevertheless, even assuming the Lambino group circulated the amended petition during the signature-gathering period, it amounted to misleading only one thirteen copies of the petition.

During the mid-registration, Lambino expressly admitted that his group printed only 100,000 copies of the petition, and that the group filed more than six months later with the Comelec the authorized to also submit other supporters to print additional copies of the draft petition that he could not state with certainty how many additional copies the other supporters printed. Lambino could only assure this Court of the printing of 100,000 copies because he himself caused the printing of these 100,000 copies.

Likewise, in the Lambino Group's memorandum filed on Oct. 25, the Lambino Group expressly admitted that "petitioner Lambino initiated the printing and reproduction of 100,000 copies of the petition that it filed with the Comelec." The admission binds the Lambino Group and estops them beyond any doubt that the Lambino Group failed to show the full text of the proposed changes to the great majority of the people who signed the signature sheets.

Thus, of the 6.3 million signatories, only 100,000 signatories could have received with the petition the full text of the proposed changes, a 100-percent distribution with no overage. If Lambino and company distributed one copy of the petition to each signature sheet, only 100,000 signatories could have seen the full text of the petition. Each signature sheet contains space for 10 signatures. Assuming 10 people signed each of these 100,000 signature sheets with the attached petition, only 1 million people out of the 6.3 million signatories could have seen the petition before they signed the signature sheets would not exceed 1,000,000.

Fatal omissions

With only 100,000 printed copies of the petition, it would be physically impossible for all or a great majority of the 6.3 million signatories to have seen the petition before they signed the signature sheets. The Lambino Group's admission that the Lambino Group failed to show to the 6.3 million signatories the full text of the proposed changes. If true, not more than one million signatories could see the petition before they signed the signature sheets.

In any event, the Lambino Group's signature sheets do not include the full text of the proposed changes, either on the face of the signature sheet or at the back of the signature sheet. Neither do the signature sheets refer to the petition on the reverse page for any completeness with the signatories to see the petition that effectively contains the proposed changes, one of which they may find unacceptable.

Under American jurisprudence, the effect of signing is to ratify the entire proposal contained and not only the mentioned subject matter. Thus, in Prior v. Hermann, the Supreme Court of Florida declared:

"The signatures to petitions propose into one proposal constitute "signalling," which, if not judicial responsibility is to mean anything, we cannot permit. The very boundaries of the proposed amendment intended or signalling because the electorate cannot know what it is voting on—the circulator's proponents' simplistic explanations would not suffice to satisfy x x x [T]he ballot must give the electorate fair notice of the proposed amendment being voted on. x x x [T]he ballot language is the instant case platform at best. The summary does not give adequate notice to a voter who votes it will affect and effect such matters the requirements that proposed amendments embrace only one subject.

Stealth

Legislating creatures and were decisions the people. In Rice Air Alaska is disciplinary, the Supreme Court of Alaska rejected against "stealth" and "surprise" in the following manner:

Those impermissible there is no purpose for amending or splitting the several provisions in an initiative proposal. These difficulties clearly distinguish the initiative from the legislative process. Here the petitioners have the legislative power.

Thus, the present initiative appears merely a preliminary step for further amendments or revisions to be undertaken in the interim. Parliamentary form of government. Thus, the people signed the signature sheets would not have known that their signatures would be used to propose an amendment transforming the structure of government to propose further amendments in accordance to the Constitution.

Apparently, the Lambino Group knows that the proposed Section 5(d) to compel the Senate and the House to convene as a joint session within 45 days from the filing of the proposed changes, or before the May 2007 elections, to the election of the proposed Section 5(4), the Lambino Group has not shown to the people whether to amend or revise again the Constitution. With the proposed Section 5(4), the initiative proponents want the initiative Parliament mandated to immediately amend or revise again the Constitution.

However, the signature sheets do not explain the reason for the "call a convening or working again to revise the Constitution. The signature sheets do not explain the reason for the proposed amendments or revisions to revise again the Constitution. With the proposed Section 5(4), the initiative proponents want the initiative Parliament mandated to immediately amend or revise again the Constitution.

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Parliamentary elections

Section 5(2) the interim Parliament shall provide for the election of the members of the Regular Parliament. The regular Parliament shall be simultaneously with the election of all local government officials. x x x x

Section 5(2) does not state that the election for the regular Parliament will be held simultaneously with the 2007 local elections. The section merely requires that the election for the regular Parliament shall be held simultaneously with the election of all local government officials.

Lambino, who claims to be the principal drafter of the proposed changes, could have easily written the word "next" before the phrase "election of local government officials." This would have insured that the election for the regular Parliament would be held in the next local calendar after following the ratification of the proposed changes. However, the drafters of the proposed changes deliberately omitted the word "next" allows the interim Parliament to schedule the election for the regular Parliament simultaneously with any future local elections.

Thus, the interim Parliament can postpone indefinitely the expiration of their own terms of office. This allows incumbent members of the House of Representatives to hold office beyond their constitutionally mandated terms of office, and possibly even beyond the term of office of the incumbent President. Moreover, the incumbent members of the Senate will not have to run for reelection. Obviously, the proponents of the proposed changes have a vested interest in the indefinite postponement of the election of the regular Parliament.

Grand deception

This facially shows the absolute need for the people to sign an initiative petition that contains the full text of the proposed amendments to avoid fraud or misrepresentation. In the present petitions, the Lambino proponents misrepresent to the people that the only change in the present form of government is the change from the bicameral system to a unicameral parliamentary system. The people sign the petitions in the belief that the only change in the present form of government is the change from the bicameral system to a unicameral parliamentary system. The people sign the petitions in the belief that the only change in the present form of government is the change from the bicameral system to a unicameral parliamentary system.

Section 4(1) of the proposed changes provides for the initial composition of the interim Parliament. The interim Parliament shall be composed of the incumbent members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who shall serve as members of the interim Parliament. The people who signed the signature sheets have no idea that they were proposing these amendments. These three proposed changes are highly controversial. The people could not have inferred or deduced these proposed changes from merely reading or scrutinizing the contents of the signature sheets.

Parliamentary elections

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Legrolling

Despite the vital signatures, Lambino stated that this provision is a "surplusage" and the court and the people should simply ignore it. Yet from being a surplusage, this provision is, in fact, the most important provision in the petition.

Section 5(4) is a subject matter totally unrelated to the shift from the bicameral presidential to the unicameral parliamentary system. American jurisprudence denominates such provision as legrolling—where the initiative proponents incorporate an unrelated subject matter in the same petition. This puts the people in a dilemma since they can support such either yes or no. Thus, the people who sign the petitions sign a petition that effectively contains two propositions, one of which they may find unacceptable.

Under American jurisprudence, the effect of legrolling is to nullify the entire proposition and not only the unrelated subject matter. Thus, in Prior v. Hermann, the Supreme Court of Florida declared:

"The signatures to petitions propose into one proposal constitute "legrolling," which, if not judicial responsibility is to mean anything, we cannot permit.

(Excerpt from the Supreme Court decision dismissing the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution to pave the way for a shift to a unicameral parliamentary system. Acting Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, CJ, Puno, Quisumbing, Ynares-Santiago, Sandoval-Gutierrez, Carpio, Austria-Martinez, Corona, Carpio Morales, Callejo Sr., Azcuna and Tinga, JJ., concur. Tinga, J., has separate concurring opinion. Chico-Nazario, J., on official leave. Reyes, J., no part. Velasco Jr., J., on leave.)

Across the NATION

Text or your feedback: inquirer.net text/sign/sig/message to 2287 (Globe) or 283 (Smart); Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

OVERCROWDED
A rapidly growing population forces the living to encroach on space for the dead and leave their resting places through risk-defendless hanging above graves in a public cemetery in a village in Malo, Bohol City.

BFAR declares ban on shellfish from 6 more bays, a lagoon

SOMOSOMO CITY—THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has imposed a shellfish ban in six more bays and a lagoon as more red tide has been detected in shellfish poisoning here, while 12 others were confirmed inhospitable.

This, as residents of coastal villages continued to ignore the government-imposed ban on the gathering and eating of shellfish from Somogon Bay.

The latest victims were brothers Mark John Jesalva, 7, and Jaziel Jesalva, 3, who died late Friday night in the Fernando Dantai Memorial Hospital.

The victims' four other siblings aged 5 to 14, together with their parents, were still under observation at the hospital.

Ernalito Lasibang, head of the provincial fishery section, said tropical residents still ate "tabong" (shellfish) despite their repeated warnings.

"Many of these people ignore the risks just so they would have something to eat," he said.

In the latest advisory issued by BFAR, the areas other red tide affected areas were the coastal waters of Milagros, Masbate; coastal waters of Sitio in Negros Occidental; Dumanquillas Bay, Zamboanga del Sur; Bohol Sea, Mati, Davao Oriental; Jiabong Lagoon in Marabut, Samar; Irong-Irong Bay, Samar and Hinilig Bay in Iloilo City have tested positive.

RED TIDE AREAS

Milagros, Masbate; Sitio in Negros Occidental; Dumanquillas Bay, Zamboanga del Sur; Bohol Sea, Mati, Davao Oriental; Jiabong Lagoon in Marabut, Samar; Irong-Irong Bay, Samar and Hinilig Bay in Iloilo City

Gil Acosta, head of BFAR's technical services, said shellfish and "alamang" (tiny shrimp) from these areas were not safe for human consumption.

Earlier, three children also died after eating shellfish.

Bobby O. Labrador, Inquirer Southern Luzon

3,000 troops to secure Asean summit

By Jaime B. Bulanhini
Inquirer Visayas

LAPU-LAPU CITY—SOME 3,000 WAR-WEARY soldiers from Samar and Mindanao arrived in Cebu yesterday to secure critical areas of the province in time for the holding here of the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) summit in December.

Two Army battalions from the 46th Infantry Battalion from Catbalogan, Samar and the 7th Marines Battalion Landing Team from Sulu yesterday arrived on board two Navy vessels at the ports of the Naval Forces Central (Navforce) based in Lapu-Lapu City.

More than 100 US-trained personnel from the light Reaction Company of the Special Reaction Command, Scout Rangers, SWAT (Sagasbalos Diskturan Division), Civil Disturbance and Management Unit and Special Operation Wing of the Philippine Air Force have earlier arrived in Cebu, as part of the 4,500 security troops tapped to secure Cebu for the international event.

Major Gen. Casiano Luna, commanding general of the Central Command (Centcom), yesterday said that the 4,500 personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be fielded in the cities of Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Cebu and in the town of Cordova on Mactan Island.

Luna said the navy and army components of the AFP are assigned to secure ports, seaports and seaways while the air force is in charge of securing air space and airports.

The Philippine Coast Guard would assist the Navy in securing the ports, seaports and sea lanes, he added.

Luna said the AFP contingency would primarily function as support units to the Philippine National Police.

The Presidential Security Group (PSG) will play a very important role in the security preparations as they will serve as close-in security, while security liaison officers, security officers of the heads of states and visiting delegations will be on hand.

Luna also said that the plan to close the Mactan Channel is all passenger and cargo vessels during the four-day summit from Dec. 11-14 is still under study despite vehement opposition from ship owners.

He said the said force on security for the Asean summit is taking into consideration the economic and core implications should the channel be closed for vessels.

"They (shipping companies) may have vehement opposition to the proposal to close the channel but we can't compromise security. That proposal is being evaluated and a careful study is being made based on the implications. We hope we could get a good compromise," he said.

"We would be considering every event, whatever and we are ready for it. Our security measures and contingency plans are all in place," he added.

Lincoln said Navforces would be deploying nine Navy ships to secure not just the island of Cebu but also provinces in Central Visayas and Siquijor Island.

Roundup

Palau leaders visit Gordon

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Palau officials, led by Kayangel Gov. Edwin Olimbo, visited the city on Thursday to study the technology employed by the local tuna industry. Olimbo said they have chosen the city for their study tour because of its famous tuna industry. Olimbo said experts in the Pacific rich in marine resources want to tap the technology to develop it. He said they wanted to learn the intricacies of the industry, as well as how fishing operators run and manage their businesses particularly the production and processing of tuna products.
Ayenie Z. Zamir, Inquirer Mindanao

13 MILF members yield

ISABELA CITY—The military on Friday announced the surrender of at least 13 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Barrio, Maguindanao. But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalo said the surrender was dubious. "It's always like this. The military announces the alleged surrender of some MILF members. Maybe there is money here," he said. Kabalo said their men contract and those who yielded were no longer rebels.
Joshray Ablaña, Inquirer Mindanao

Cop exec missing

BAGUIO CITY—A police officer under army restriction on suspicion of involvement in the illegal drugs trade here was reported missing. Sr. Insp. Rolando Mejia, Chief of the Baguio City PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, said PO2 Arnold Chichioco allegedly left camp Igorots at the Benee City Police Office compound at about 1 a.m. on Wednesday. He said Chichioco, who was being restricted to camp with fellow drug suspect PO3 Hidson Ayco, could be out of the city now. The two police officers were held following Mayor Rodolfo Bautista's order for their arrest.
Dennis Jay C. Zamora, Inquirer Mindanao

Hearing aid donation

LEGAZPI CITY—On Oct. 25, Salve Bandia, 11, of Barangay Bogtong here, who had her sense of hearing as she was growing up, was able to hear again after the Ozone International of Legazpi Mayon, an international service organization, donated a hearing aid for her. Bandia, in consultation with the Bicol Gold Dapper's Inc., and the city government of Legazpi, raised funds for her, after the goal advertised on national hall to Barangay Bantog here. The fund-raising activity was also an awareness campaign for people to take care of their ears and their sense of hearing.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Iglan Foundation tourney

THE IGAN foundation held its fifth golf tournament at the Cambuga Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal to raise funds for play centers for urban poor children and orphans. The tournament was held last Oct. 23 and participated by celebrity players including former Rep. Jose "Pepeng" Carbungco, Inquirer Associate Secretary Bryan Flamiano, actors Ejay Falcon and Ian Veneracion and other actors and actresses, businessmen Gary Lim and other business leaders. The tournament was sponsored by Pepsi, Universal Robina Corp., Pascual Laboratories, San Miguel Corp., Sun Cellular, Unilever, GMA Network and other companies. Arnold Davis, GMA 7 broadcaster and other officers of the foundation were formed, cited proceeds of the tournament to go to the foundation's charity works.

2 hurt in Laguna blast

SAN PABLO CITY—Two workers were severely injured when a main tank they were working on exploded inside the kitchen of a seafood store inside the Balibago Complex here on Wednesday, Sept. Fernando Tuliguan, identified the wounded employees as Jaime Mojares and Dan Arriego, both aircon technicians. Tuliguan said Mojares lost his left arm while Arriego suffered wounds in different parts of the body.
Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

200 crocs newest Subic attraction

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The release of 200 crocodiles here on Oct. 26 signaled the launching of the latest offering of one of the country's premier ecotourist spots.

Zoobic Safari has adopted the subway no-release crocodile farming system from Palawan as part of its tourist attraction and wildlife conservation program in its twohectare Zoobic family fun freeport.

"This project is a joint effort between the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to help save and preserve these crocodiles which are now considered to be endangered species," Robert Yupangco, Zoobic Safari president, said during the first public viewing of the crocodiles.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga said Zoobic Safari's latest attractions are expected to boost tourist arrivals here.

"This is a very good program for kids and adults alike who crave less to enjoy and be entertained, are at the end of the day, they leave with the notion that they have also learned something new," Salonga said.

Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Edna Jan Bandaval
Senior Chief Nikko A. Alcoseba

Child rebel is now an Army woman

FORMER child rebel Jelyn Dayong, now Army Private First Class.

By Jeoffe G.R. Badilla
Cagayan de Oro City

CLAD IN A MILITARY UNIform, former child rebel Jelyn Dayong, now 24 and married, sits on a chair and faces a computer inside the Office of the Civil Military Operations (CMO) of the Army's 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

From being a combatant of the communist New People's Army, Dayong is now a member of the Philippine Army with a rank of private first class.

Far from the bygone's from snap photo of a young guerrilla beside a dead comrade after her group was ambushed by Scout Rangers in Sitio Baglasang, Barangay Pendula, Alegria, Surigao del Norte in February, 1999, Dayong now works as an office clerk of the CMO Office.

"I'm OK, Ma'am. I'm so happy with the freedom I have now. I can go out when I want to, as walang pa akong problemang inihap (with no problems so far)," Dayong told the Inquirer.

She joined the Army and started military training in July 2003, just four months after she graduated from the Cagayan de Oro National High School.

But retaining Dayong's true name's easy for officers of the 4th ID, fully aware of her strong commitment to the communists' armed struggle.

DSWD custody

Dayong, then 15, went through "saturation re-indoctrination sessions" for almost a year while under the protective custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. She attended Bible studies regularly, one-on-one "political and ideological" sessions, showing of "anti-guerrilla-related films, and various kinds of other relief measures.

The Army division also helped her family by providing them a house in their hometown in Sitio Kagusan del Norte, and P18,000 to finance their small-scale agricultural livelihood project.

Today, the lot is fully planted to bananas, coconut trees, ginger, corn and assorted vegetables.

After her release from the DSWD, Northern Mindanao in May 2000, Dayong told her parents that she wanted to become an adopted daughter of the 4th ID.

"I was very touched by the love and kindness they gave me and my family. My eyes were opened to the deception of communism," she said.

Her decision to stay with the military upon her release from custody came as a surprise even to people close to her.

That same year, the military facilitated her enrollment at the Balulu National High School, then to the Cagayan de Oro National High School where she graduated in March 2003.

The encounter

Although no longer hesitant to talk about it, Dayong still feels sad every time she recalls that fateful incident.

There it exists to the photograph that came out in the front page of the Inquirer on March 8, 1999, she said.

"Napuno ko ang nakita ako pan, Ma'am. Maaalis sa loob ko hadlion yung pangyayari! Bihar buot a long time since I last saw that, Ma'am. It hunts every time I remember what happened)," she said.

Dayong and 19 other NPA comrades had just had their lunch and were taking a much-needed rest after a seven-hour trek when they were surprised by the Scout Rangers.

Dayong was hit in the leg and in the back.

"Buot lang ako, nahirapan, mag isog. Bipas nanimang ko lubot. Yong mga kalasang kasama ko, nigsiwon na ako nang nigsiwon (I just sat there, wounded. I became hysterical). My companions were all shooting)," she said.

Dayong remembers the male comrade who was with her in the photograph.

"Malang magmapuri akon, mag-uusap pa kami kahit nasaktan ko ang tuma niya sa leg . . . yong kamay niya, ang lamas na niya, para hindi pa siya (While bullets were flying, we were talking although he was hit in the neck . . . and the hand, but he was still alive)," she said.

Talk of surrender

In the middle of the three-hour firefight, Dayong said the wounded comrade even convinced her that they surrender.

"Then, I said, how will we surrender?" Dayong said, meaning that a fierce exchange of gunfire was still ongoing.

"Nakikita ko kung saan-saan yung bigsak ng mga bala. Parang bugso. Bawasiwas sa lupa, sa mga dahon, parang dinadamit ng bala (I could see bullets coming from everywhere. Many. It's like shaking the leaves)," she said.

Dayong said she was still lucky she didn't die. Minutes after it all ended, she said she was even unbothered hearing her (rebel) side-mates.

"Noong namatay na patalasi, sabi ko, 'Grabe naman, matatay nila ako.' Tapos nasa banguko na ang mga comrades (When the shooting ended, I said to myself, 'Damn! They left me.' Then, the soldiers appeared)," she said.

Dayong said at first she thought the soldiers would finish her off. "Chinoot them. One said, 'Let's spare her.' I can't understand them. They were using protocol," she said.

Propaganda

Dayong's decision to join the Army has been seen as a boost to the AFP's propaganda campaign against the NPA.

"She expressed willingness to support the military in its psy-ops efforts, especially in the 100th anniversary of nations. She is positive about learning. She now enjoys clerical work using the latest communication technology," Maj. Samuel Sagura, 4th ID public affairs chief, said.

Dayong said her parents were afraid of her joining the military but added that she was able to convince them.

"I also want to help them financially. I want to give them a house, TV," she said.

This was the same family that Dayong ran away from after learning that her parents wanted her to marry early according to the traditions of the Manobo tribe. To escape from the arranged marriage, she joined the NPA.

Dayong now speaks of the two different armed groups.

"Ang ginasabi nilang democracy or human rights. Wala talaga yan sa Kilusan. Kasi noong nasa Kilusan pa ako at may POW (prisoner of war) kami, pinatay pa rin nila (When they mention democracy and human rights, there are none in the movement. When I was still with them and we had a POW, they still killed the prisoner)," she said.

Dayong said the guerrillas hardly had enough food and rest.

"There's really nothing to eat. No sleep. When the women have menstruation, we did not have any sanitary napkin," she said in Hiligaynon.

Still, she misses her close friend in the NPA.

"Maybe my friend is (in) Davao," she said.

Dayong enjoys the comfort of a happy family now. In 2000, she married a fellow soldier. They have a year old daughter.

"Sa prinsipyo, mas importante kanuplo no sana si kung ano ang tama. Ang may freedom ka, dyan mo may vanu ang ipinaglalaban mo. May kalayaan ako. Dinadala ko yung prinsipyo and what is true, where you are free. You know you have a reason for fighting. I have freedom," Dayong said.

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Church, trade groups form peace mission

DUMEZA

COTABATO CITY—A mission composed of 17 community leaders in Mindanao has embarked on a campaign to bring back the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on track.

The peace negotiations hit a snag over the issue of territory as the MILF insisted on the inclusion of more than 1,000 villages into the Bangsamoro juridical entity. The MILF also said the creation of the Justice territory should be without pre-conditions.

But the government said it would only allow 600 predominantly Muslim villages to be included in the Bangsamoro homeland entity. The creation of the territory would also be the subject of a plebiscite.

The lobby mission was organized by the Mindanao People's Caucus, a group working for the resolution of conflicts in Mindanao.

"While war is being imposed on us Mindanaoans, I believe our mission has delivered the strong message of peace that our war-affected communities want the whole nation and the world to know," Mary Ann Arnado, MPC secretary general, said after the lobby group met with government officials, diplomats and Church leaders.

Datuay Mokarin Guiama, MPC chair, said the mission was a success.

Commitments

"We have gathered commitments from all people we met here who said they will do all they can to support our cause for a more meaningful and lasting peace in Mindanao," he said.

Ulama-led Jemaa Islamia, presidential adviser on the peace process, had told them the Arroyo administration was committed to peace.

Fr. Bert Lanzon, OMI, rector of the multisector MPC, said unless the peace talks resumed, Mindanao would continue to live in an atmosphere of fear.

"There are fears of another evacuation, destruction of farms, damage to properties (etc) and traumatized children," he said.

Lanzon said they were worried about the continued impasse because this could be taken advantage of by some quarters.

He cited the recent bomb scare in Central Mindanao, which is believed blamed on the MILF.

"The reason why this delegation is here on a mission is because we are again worried. We are worried because of the impasse or breakdown, or the BIAF says, of the GRP-MILF Peace Talks. The problem is real and we believe that if the impasse or breakdown is not addressed in the shortest time possible, the situation on the ground could get out of control," he said.

Prof. Octavio Dinampo, an MPC council member from Iloilo, said the Bangsamoro problem is not the problem of the people of Mindanao only.

Nationwide concern

"People from Luzon and the Visayas should really take ownership over the peace issue of Mindanao because war will not only destroy the economy of Southern Philippines but of the entire country as well. Mindanao is considered one of our major rice granaries, and if the island halts its produce because of war, our food security will also be at stake," he said.

Pastor Rex Reyes Jr., MPC council member from Lanao del Norte, said the 16 diplomats they met with have expressed full support to the lobby group.

He said the diplomats have committed to help Bern find other peace models from the experiences of other countries.

"For centuries, indigenous peoples have been abused. The time has come for us to say that enough is enough," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

SPOOKY
A decrepit, abandoned hut near a cemetery in Barangay Sta. Cruz in the island Garden City of Samal has become the object of ghost stories circulating in the village. Such stories become popular on All Souls Day drawn near

Groups focus on abuses vs tribal Filipinos

BAGUIO CITY—ANTICRIME watchdogs have decided to zero in on ancestral land issues, believing that indigenous Filipinos require the same attention they give to heinous crimes.

"We are [now fighting to ensure] ancestral lands to their rightful owners because we believe this is an economic crime and a violation of human rights... We have to attend to all kinds of crimes," said Jose Melvin Villegas Jr., head of the Cordillera Crime Watch (CCW).

"We believe [that this] can expose land-grabbing is a crime," Villegas said.

He said that this economic injustice leads to economic depression, which is one of the roots of criminality.

Other anticrime groups like Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), Kilusang Bayan ni Kristo Rehistro and Barangay Peacemakers Action Group (BPAG) also pledged full support to the lobby group.

He said the diplomats have committed to help Bern find other peace models from the experiences of other countries.

"For centuries, indigenous peoples have been abused. The time has come for us to say that enough is enough," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

APO SULADA, of the Bagobo-Tagabawa tribe, displays her weaving skills during Indigenous People's Month held at a mall in Davao City
MARLON RAMOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

some amount of land equated on by the government," he said.

For their part, Villegas and CCW lawyer Alexandro Villanueva filed a petition at the Office of the President to recover the hectares of forest lands in Pagasa in La Trinidad, Benguet, for the Ibaloi Chanul Bansi-Ane.

A regional trial court had granted the La Trinidad government's petition to cancel the titles of private home lots that are located inside the 40-hectare Pagasa communal forest.

The decision was recently affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

The town council is processing the cancellation of other home lots found to reside the forest, to purchase of their ancestry. There were families were blocked lands existing or overlapping forest reserves, according to La Trinidad officials.

Villegas said the local government now considers the claim as several lands, including the area where the Pagasa Elementary school is located, as well as part of the Pico-Lamtang-Sepan highway.

"The government built the highway and allowed the construction of the school and vegetable gardens without [offering the clan] compensation and (without undergoing) proper expropriation," Villanueva said.

He said the town put up the school in 1947 even though the school lot was not titled to the Department of Education. He said they have enough evidence supporting the claim of the clan, Fraud Cloudy, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Who is the

Real No. 1

Domestic Airline?

Scheduled Domestic Passenger Traffic
July 2005 to August 2006*

Airline	Pax Carried	Seats	Share (%)
PAL	4,380,903	5,877,350	48.8%
Airline No. 2	2,762,885	3,984,683	30.8%
Airline No. 3	1,041,459	1,549,049	11.6%
Airline No. 4	512,922	1,049,513	5.7%
Airline No. 5	277,346	398,257	3.1%
TOTAL	8,975,515	12,858,852	100%

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People's initiative not yet dead–Gonzalez

By Blancche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and her staunchest allies may have conceded defeat in the recent Supreme Court decision junking the people's initiative, but she has not any final Constitution. It is convinced that this mode of amending the Constitution is not yet dead.

Gonzalez said that with the justices changing their minds "up in the last minute of voting," the people's initiative was not as doomed as has been alleged.

"The Supreme Court has spoken... We have to accept it. But it does not mean that as far as we are concerned, that is the end of the game," the justice secretary said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

He said there were other legal remedies that initiative proponents could employ, including the filing of a motion for reconsideration.

"We are disappointed by what happened; there are many moves to tell about that," he said.

Gonzalez said Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban was right when he said the Charter change issue was one that would be talked about "for a thousand years."

However, Gonzalez said, the point of discussion would be why Panganiban changed his mind on the legitimacy of holding a people's initiative, which he upheld in a vote in 1997.

"That is the best proof that a motion for reconsideration [would still be feasible], because if a majority of the Court changes its mind in a span of a few years, or ten years," Gonzalez said, adding,

"The ruling was very close (8-7). Many speculations can be made out of that kind of voting... It is a motion for reconsideration is filed, you change the complexion of justice."

Before Nov. 9

Over Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program "Ang Sa Totoo," lawyer Raul Lambino of Siguro ng Bayan, one of the petitioners for the people's initiative, said his group would not allow the 6.3 million signatures in the petitions to go to waste.

Lambino said Sigaw would file a motion for reconsideration before Nov 9, the end of the 15-day period for the filing of such a motion.

He said even former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, one of the country's top trial lawyers, was pushed by the fact he made in the decision written by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

"In footnote Mendoza's words, it's a very 'un-Supreme Court-like' opinion," Lambino said. "For us begging pang-istudyante ang nagsulat pinabasa ko (for us, a beggar-student wrote it, I showed it to the signature-taker)."

Lambino insisted that the Supreme Court was not a trier of facts and should only decide on the question of law.

He said the decision was marked by the tribunal in sum's good points for Panganiban, who is retiring in December.

As proof, he said, Sigaw did not get a pink copy of the notice of judgment "but merely a carbon copy of it, which he said was unsolved.

Not party to petition

Gonzalez said it was up to Sigaw and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) to file the motion for reconsideration because the government was not a party to the petition.

He said the Office of the Solicitor General participated in the arguments because it was ordered by the Supreme Court to make a presentation.

"I'm making this very clear because in the future, things might happen and then may raise the issue against Solicitor General [Antonio] Nachura," Gonzalez said.

He also said there was time to hold a plebiscite before the May 2007 elections but that this would likely cause an adjustment in the schedule of the polls itself.

He said the elections could be moved to November to make way for a plebiscite to explain what changes sought by the Charter change proponents.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who heads both Ulap and the League of Provinces of the Philippines, is not about to surrender.

"We may have lost the battle but not the war," Aumentado said. "We will look for other options, including supporting the call for a constitutional convention."

Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla echoed Aumentado's sentiment, saying the high court's decision was not yet the end of the road for them.

"We still have the constituent assembly as a mode of amending the Constitution," Petilla said.

Call for prayer

But in Bacolod City Bishop Vicente Navarro called on the faithful of the diocese to "continue renewing heavens with prayers that the evil intent of those pushing for a constituent assembly will not triumph."

The bishop issued the call amid plans by the Arroyo administration's allies in the House to amend the Constitution through the convening of Congress into a constituent assembly.

He described as "truly patriotic" the Supreme Court's decision saying that "to allow this unconstitutionally inform initiative propelled by deceptively gathered signatures to alter basic principles in the Constitution is to allow a desecration of [it]."

"I thank the good Lord and the honorable judges who stood against the deception that serving our country and democracy," he said.

But Navarro said he was very much dismayed by the fact that only eight justices were against the people's initiative.

"How did the seven others assess the people's initiative?" he said. "But since this is not in their realm of intelligence, it should have been a sweeping 'no' on at most, a greater majority."

Con-Con

On the other hand, the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) urged Charter change proponents to consider a constitutional convention.

While this mode is more expensive to implement, it is not as divisive as a people's initiative, PDSP spokesperson Jose M. Calderon said.

"The efficacy of a constituent assembly is as vitiated as the people's initiative and will surely land in the Supreme Court. It is a wonder then why the Pro-constitutional constitutional convention has not been an option to date," he said. With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila, Carla P. Bretaña, Chito A. Chavez and Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

THUMBS? Arthur Villarosa agrees with the Supreme Court ruling but says it was never involved at any point in the President's goal to change the Constitution. EPA/ALDEN

'We remain loyal to GMA'

From page A1

Junior Raul Gonzalez also told reporters that there's a big lesson to be learned in the decision.

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, said Malacañang was "totally perplexed" that those whose dies had appointed to the Supreme Court "would turn out to have the harshest opinions."

The right way

Villarosa also sought to distance The Firm from the issue of Charter change, which senators said was a major point of disagreement with its most important client.

"The Wise had never been tainted by her Excellency, the President, to assist in or shepherd the people's initiative at any stage of its development. Until the time the ruling came out, we were unaware of what was happening on the case save for what was being reported in media," he said.

Villarosa said The Firm was for Charter change, but wanted it to be done in the right way.

"While we now agree with the high court's conclusion, we regret that Sigaw failed simply because [it] did not comply with the means and manner outlined by the Constitution in amending the Charter through a people's initiative," he said, adding:

"The Firm remains squarely for the need to change our Charter, for senators, too, like any other law-abiding citizen, that it should be done in accordance with the Constitution."

Full assistance

With the 8-7 defeat of the people's initiative petition in the high court, Villarosa and magsipag expressed willingness to take up Charter change through a constituent assembly, which, some legal experts said, had a better chance of succeeding.

If tasked by the President, the Firm is prepared to lend its full assistance to shepherd a genuine effort for Charter change through the constituent assembly within the close parameters laid out in the Constitution, "Villarosa said.

"For lawyers of The Firm, Charter change is a matter of individual conscience," he added.

His 'sure estimate'

Speaking yesterday on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program "Ang Sa Iyo, Boses," Justice Secretary Gonzalez said The Firm could indeed be accountable for the defeat of the initiative petition filed by Sigaw and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Gonzalez also said that while he did not directly blame Villarosa & Angangco for the dismissal of the petition, many people were of that belief, and linking the law firm to the defeat of the petition was just "my conviction."

"I don't think I said that [blamed The Firm]. But I did make comments to members adding that the persons who wrote a very strong fantastic opinion against the people's initiative was a retired member of that law firm before he was appointed to [service, noted by the President]," Gonzalez said.

He added: "There are really people who are thinking along that line. I just confirmed it, my self, for, multiplying persons ago [when] I said one, it looks that way). But I'd never directly said The Firm should be blamed.

"But you can read what Raul Suppinod—no jury or attorney appointee up President, pagkatapos he's the head of the law firm which has been identified with them [the Villarosa family] for a long time.

Romulo Macalintal, the President's election lawyer, said she should be congratulated.

"Instead of saying that President should be tapped Kenyan is disappointed [by the court's decision], we should congratulate her for appointing people to the judiciary who are independent and cannot be pressured, like Carpio and [Chief Justice Artemio] Panganiban. The President is really one for an independent judiciary, and not a dictator," Macalintal said in a text message to the bureau. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

Purchasing officers urged...

From page A1

which products or raw materials are used in a company, school, or institution, from office supplies to cement and light bulbs to detergents.

EPD chiefs for Green Productivity, Green Procurement, Green Philippines, a joint program of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Its implementing partner is the Clean & Green Foundation Inc., chaired by former First Lady Amelita Ramos.

In a two-day conference in Makati City that drew over 150 corporate and government executives and environmental advocates, participants were taught how to be more discerning in choosing suppliers or shopping for materials.

They should, for example, check the claims printed on the product label that it is "eco-friendly", "biodegradable," or "ozone-safe," said one American resource speaker.

Those claims could be misleading unless backed by "clearer, more accurate information that is verifiable," said Iosi Case, an international expert on "how to buy green" and a trainer for various US entities like the World Bank, Microsoft and Starbucks.

"We are targeting institutional buyers because they have a big role to treating demand for environmentally sensitive products," CCPI Executive Director Imelda Inumerable told the business at the sidelines of the conference held at the Dusit Hotel.

"From there, we believe, the movement can easily trickle down to households and individual consumers," she said.

Biggest bulk buyers

EPD was also designed to target both the implementation of Executive Order 301 signed in 2004, the order directs the government—the country's biggest bulk buyer—as he to the forefront of green purchasing, Inumerable added.

For the private sector, the campaign also serves as a vehicle for the National Ecolabelling Program spearheaded by the DTI and DENR, under which products sold in the country earn the Green Choice Philippines seal of approval for meeting a set criteria.

The "Green Choice" seal has so far been awarded to detergent brands Surf and Pride, she said.

Japanese football star drops in

From page A1

flashing a wide smile.

It was that smile and all the other smiles from the residents of Barangay Peyton II that left the biggest impression on the former star of Japan's last World Cup team and two-time Asian Football Confederation Player of the Year (1997 and 1998).

"It was impressive," Nakata said. He became an ex-navigator and took some the souvenirs of Peyton II. "I am sure they do not have an easy life but they do not look sad or depressed to me. They seem very positive."

He visited Peyton as part of a personal quest to have a better understanding of the social ills that plague the developed countries, especially in Asia where he comes from. He said he wanted to see another side of the world that he hardly sees when he was a world-class professional athlete.

Soccer star

Nakata began playing professionally in 1995 at 18. He played for Italian premiere league teams Perugia and AS Roma. He also played for Japan in three FIFA World Cup tournaments and in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

Last year, he was made Knight of the Star of Italian Solidarity, one of the Italy's highest honors, for improving the country's image overseas.

In July this year, the attacking midfielder announced his retirement from professional football, after Japan's early exit from the World Cup in Germany. Now he is said to want more freedom to travel, he said.

Fashion icon

The Philippines is the first stop in his Asian tour, thanks in part to a friend of Nakata, who happens to be Filipino.

"It's a professional football player, you only get to see one part of the world. Basically, from your hotels," he said. "But I've always known there was more [out there] and this is what I would like to see in my future travels."

Nakata is known as a fashion icon and wears designer fashion and sports colorful haircuts. Walking around in Peyton, he was equally comfortable in a plain white tee, Bermuda shorts and Nikes.

He said he had no grand plans of suddenly becoming an ambassador of goodwill or to publicly fight for a cause. He was simply visiting urban poor communities to deepen his understanding of their living conditions. The trip was arranged by the local office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP).

New journey

"When you get to see the other side, you will have an idea of what you can really do to help," Nakata said, "maybe then you can start to ask yourself what you can do about their problems."

As he said in an open letter to his fans that he announced his retirement: "The time has come to take leave from this journey called professional football. I want to start a new journey which will allow me to discover a new world."

He arrived in Manila late Friday from Tokyo and toured Peyton yesterday morning.

Unforgettable

PCUP head Percival C. Cendaña said before Nakata left Peyton, he suggested to local officials to consider developing a park in the area where children can play, perhaps even learn football.

Nakata also went to Bonifacio Pasig to take part in the Non-Violent Coach for Peace (the Science) program for street children where he played a little, gave away some footballs and then visited a UNDP solid waste management project, also in Pasig.

He told Cher when he returns home, he would talk with other professional athletes and share with them the "new world" he has seen from his travels.

"You cannot really control their emotions so what I will tell them, for at least I will get to share my experiences," Nakata said.

His experience with 7-year-old Lopez and the rest of the Filipinos was one something he would soon forget.

IN ACTION: Japanese soccer star Hidetoshi Nakata (left) of Bolton, an English club, vies for the ball during the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Cup match at the Reebok stadium in Bolton last year. AFP/PAUL ELLIS

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Late Sports

More stories on A25 to 28

WARREN Thaiwa of Red Bull dives for the loose ball against Welcoat's Jojo Tangkay. The Bombo downed the Dragons, 88-77, Friday night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Realtors are for real

Trip Phone Pals; Beermen roll back Express

By Marang R. Castillo

SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA—IT'S NOW SAFE TO SAY THAT the Sta. Lucia Realtors are for real.

And the rookie who gives direction to this erstwhile underachieving squad is doing more than a fine job.

Kelly Williams tossed in a career-high 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as the Realtors posted a 102-90 road victory over powerhouse Talk 'N Text yesterday in the ongoing PBA Philippine Cup.

The 6-foot-7 Detroit-born forward spearheaded a crippling 27-6 run at the halfway mark of the third period, boosting the Realtors to a 79-65 lead that eventually ingrained their league-leading mark to 5-1.

"We got our running game going, and we haven't we had those (Phone Pals) when they tried to run with us," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua.

The loss was the third for the high-profile Phone Pals.

As befits, Zambales, Ato Miguel, cracking as coach Bonjovi Gregorio leads and was, reunited the Alvin Figueroa, 1:48 PM, for a third straight win. Our pal the Bowmen near the upper half of the standings.

Ato Miguel broke the game wide open in the third period, racing to leads of as many as 20 points, 73-53, after a Dondon Hontiveros layup and two free throws, as the Bowmen improved to 3-3.

Hontiveros was backed up by sophomore forward Wesley Gonzales, who shot 13 of his 16 points in the first half.

It was the first loss for the Express since they came up with a 127-100 whipping of Talk 'N Text.

After breathing the ALA paint much in each of their last four games, it was clear that the Express' recurring offensive machine did not function at all cylinders as the team fell to 2-4 overall in a tie with Coca-Cola in eighth spot.

ADZU had a hard time keeping pace with the Bowmen, who sent all 11 players it fielded into rebounding rebounds, including seven in double figures.

After opening up the tournament with three straight wins, Talk 'N Text dropped to 4-2, now tied with idle defending champion Purefoods for fourth spot.

The scores

First Game

STA. LUCIA (102)—Williams 22, Enriquez 17, Castro 16, Reglos 14, Calaguio 9, Aquino 5, Dionisio 4, Ilo 4, Mendoza 3, Gonzales 2, Galanza 0.

TALK 'N TEXT (90)—Cone 18, Ayala 15, Washington 14, Jimenez 13, Asaro 11, Pinto 7, Castelo 6, Pinto 3, Asaro 3

Quarters: 30-25 (1st); 51-46 (2nd); 102-90

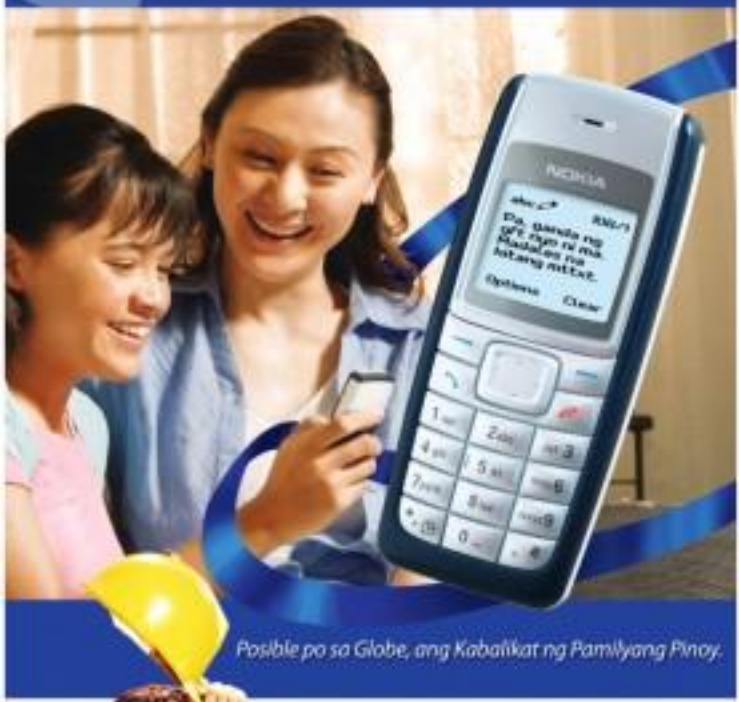
Second Game

SAN MIGUEL (99)—Gonzales 16, Seigle 15, Ildefonso 12, Hontiveros 12, Garcia 12, Arnaiz 11, Arnaiz 9, Calaguio 6, Pinto 0, Wilson 0, Lastimosa 0.

ADZU (82)—Castro 23, Sand 16, Acosta 12, E. De Ocampo 10, T. De Ocampo 8, Sa 8, Arnaiz 7, Arnaiz 7, Tolentino 4, Castelo 3, Hontiveros 2, Arnaiz 0

Quarters: 20-24 (1st); 42-42 (2nd); 82-82 (3rd); 99-82 (4th)

"Gusto ko, lagi niya kaming maisip sa presyong 'di kailangang pag-isipan."



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Kings take on Aces, eye new streak

KING ARCHIES SAYABE THAT HIS RAMAY Ginebra squad is not out of a slump—because the Gin Kings never never in one to begin with.

"We lost to two tough teams and winning (on Thursday) does not really mean that we're back," Uichico told the Inquirer. "We never left. We were never on a slump. We just lost two games to two tough teams."

Tonight, Uichico and his Kings will try to start working on another winning streak, when they take the Arwind Caliwan-fortified the heavy favorites against the crippled Alaska Aces in the 6:45 p.m. elimination round game of the PBA Philippine Cup.

Entering second-behind Sta. Lucia, which was playing Talk 'N Text in a sortie in San Fernando, Pampanga, at presstime, the Kings will be seeking off a 102-75 demolition of Coca-Cola in La Union on Thursday which snapped a two-game slide.

And whether Uichico admits it or not, the three hit Kings showed on Thursday was exactly what the pre-tournament hyped kid has been, which is being tipped to rule the tournament after a blockbuster trade a couple of months back.

"The players worked hard and they like winning," Uichico said. "We intend to keep on winning and working hard to prepare for the strong teams in the tournament."

Newcomers Sibilan and Coca-Cola try to bounce back from losses the last time around when they tangle in the rematch-game at 4:45 p.m.

The Dragons gave Red Bull a scare for so many before bowing, 77-88, on Friday, and if Welcoat finishes the same game and the same days against the Tigers, odds are that the rookie squad would pick up another win.

At 2-4 at the moment, Sibilan will actually be shooting to repeat an 85-79 victory over Coca-Cola, the first only the Dragons claimed in their short PBA existence. Marang R. Castillo

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	4	1
Ginebra	4	2
Talk 'N Text	4	2
Red Bull	4	2
Purefoods	4	3
San Miguel	3	3
ADZU	3	3
Coca-Cola	2	4
Alaska	2	5

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Coca-Cola
6:45 p.m.—Alaska vs Barangay Ginebra

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Bad feng shui or poor health?

NBI director's office still unoccupied after Wycoco's death

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ALMOST A YEAR AFTER NBI head Wycoco—one of the best known directors of the National Bureau of Investigation—died of a stroke, his office still remains unoccupied.

The bureau's present chief, Nestor Mantaring, has decided to convert the director's office at the third floor of the NBI headquarters in Manila into a museum.

"Nothing is final yet," Mantaring told the Inquirer. "But as of now, there is a big chance that we will be pushing through with the plan of converting the Office of the Director into a museum."

Mantaring, who served as assistant director during Wycoco's administration, had said in an interview last year that the deaths of four of his predecessors "were merely coincidental." Wycoco was the fourth NBI chief after Antonio Aragon, Ramiges Toledo and Federico Opinion Jr. —to die while in office.

Still, Mantaring had the room inspected by feng shui experts earlier this month to help him decide if transforming them would be a good idea.

"At least, two feng shui experts who took a look at the room had different opinions...one of them said she could feel negative vibrations emanating from the place," the NBI director disclosed.

MANTARING

WYCOCO

According to an NBI employee who has worked his service at the bureau since the time of Alfredo Lim, none of the NBI chiefs, including the late director Wycoco, also sought the opinion of feng shui experts on the way furniture inside the director's office was arranged.

The employees said the just because some chiefs had wanted to ensure that the office would bring them good luck.

Ironically, both Wycoco and Aragon died after presiding over a meeting inside the room.

Aragon collapsed during a meeting with NBI officials working on the Vizconde massacre case on June 22, 1995. He complained of chest pains.

A diabetic, Aragon died the next morning at the age of 64. His children said he had been suffering from a heart condition for eight years.

Toledo, on the other hand, died of an enlarged heart and acute pulmonary edema, a form of ventricular arrest, on May 1, 1999.

He suffered a heart attack on his birthday in his home in Quezon City and died a few hours later at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. He was supposed to retire on the day he died, but the President Joseph Estrada had extended his term for two months, saying it was his "birthday gift" to the late director.

Opinion died on Oct. 15, 2000 of kidney failure and diabetes at the National Kidney Institute. He was 62.

But there is also the possibility that the tremendous responsibility that goes with the post may have aggravated the health of the four NBI directors.

Until his death, Opinion was worried about his job. his wife had said shortly after his death. Mantaring had also said that Wycoco was overwhelmed by the huge workload that greeted him on his first day in office.

IS THIS NBI director's office lying on top of a geopathic stress point—a source of negative vibrations that could cause illness, even death?

"He was told me that all these duties and responsibilities may have caused the deaths of the three previous directors," Mantaring recalled in an earlier interview.

Employees at the bureau have talked about strange occurrences inside the director's office.

One rumored to having seen peculiar shadows on the tiles while mopping the floor and feeling cold air on his face.

"But I did not feel afraid, coz I knew I knew that what I saw or felt was nothing to be scared of," the employee recalled.

Another employee said a couple of floor tiles suddenly moved while members of a television production team were shooting a TV program with some NBI personnel.

"It was spooky because there was no ongoing construction below that could have resulted in the sudden shifting of the tiles," the employee added.

Paranormal expert and hypnotherapist Jaime Licauco, in his Jan. 3, 2006 column (Inner resources), had explained that feng shui did not consider geopathic stress—negative rays coming from beneath the ground where a house or office was located.

"If a person happens to build or live or sleep on top of a geopathic stress point, that person is likely to get sick, become accident prone or emotionally unstable. Some suffer the ultimate loss of death," Licauco said in his column.

The paranormal expert also said that geopathic stress has been studied scientifically and proven to cause negative effects, "not only on human beings, but also on plants and animals."

"Perhaps that is what is causing all these deaths at the NBI and not because the place is jinxed," Licauco concluded.

In the meantime, Mantaring has opted to stay in the office he has occupied since his appointment as assistant director of the bureau a few years ago.

"Mahirap nanaman ang maninirahan ka (You would have nothing if you believe in what the feng shui experts say)," he said.

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GLOBAL Pinoy

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea. In both

A piece of home in downtown HK

By Isabel T. Escoda
Contributor

FILIPINOS WHO HIT FOUR IN World Wide Plaza in Hong Kong's Central district will feel like they've never left home.

The building, which is bounded on two sides by Des Voeux Road and Pedder Street, stands in stark contrast to the sleek Giorgio Armani flagship which takes up a whole block right across it. "World Wide," as it's simply known by Pinoys who use it as a meeting place—"Magkita tayo sa World Wide. Let's meet at World Wide"—is adjacent to the refurbished Landmark building, which by transference mall and Rado lighting, that houses the plush new Louis Vuitton shop frequented not just by Hong Kong's elite, but also by Japanese and South Korean big spenders.

Like a Manila mall

World Wide's shopping area, which occupies four floors of a building of 20 storeys, is a long-time destination catering to migrant workers with its low-priced goods. The building's owners probably didn't originally planned on it being a low-market area, since it's in Hong Kong's central district—which has among the highest rentals in Asia. It's possible that a smart entrepreneur persuaded them to offer reasonable rates for those five lower floors when the construction of the building was completed.

Chattering Pinays

Ascending on World Wide's escalator to the first floor (British style, the ground floor isn't called the first floor but ground floor), one finds cheap fare that may just as well be in some Manila mall. Lined up on the left side are money changers dominated by "Filipino Exchange" which does a brisk trade, particularly on weekends. Crowds of chattering Pinays can often be seen huddering down against the wall, while Chinese are not seen available) counting their money or using their cell phones.

'Bisaya' sikat empress

Turning right to enter the glass doors, the first shop one encounters displays posters of a Judy Ann Santos and Pinky Pascual film, as well as Vic Sotto and Rolanie Herminia in "Sorry Batchoy 2." Inside the store, one finds Tagalog videos, Manila movie magazines, newspapers and perfumes like "Unwin Love (800)" (regularly advertised in the popular monthly Pinoy newspaper "Hong Kong News" in grammatically strained Tagalog). Some items, however, are quintessentially Filipino, like the "Bisaya" sikat empress" (Bisaya is the Filipino term for Visayan).

The other shops also vie for custom from the Pinays—"Silver Creations" displays flashy jewelry, "Pinoy Home" sells clothes and does alterations, "Sally (Filipino) Travel Service" offers a flight bargains, and "Berlin's Shop" sells manila' envelopes, jeans and sexy shorts and tops.

The second floor has more clothing stores as well as restaurants: owners like Phil. (H.K. and Mainland Union (handling the Indibayan trade see "Life Having Palabis" and "Jolly Ji Bee Express" [not to be confused with the Jollibee restaurant that's at street level around the corner from World Wider). The Imperial Star Express" (which probably has Visayan and Bicolano interest) displays "Cuenca Passport" in bold letters on its signboard.

Sari-sari store ambiance

The sari-sari atmosphere extends to the food counters on several corners of World Wide's floors, selling slices of bibingka and puto, chicharon and pancit chips, red eggs, pulvoron and scrumptious candy—all types of comfort food for nostalgia-seeking Pinays on their days off from the weekly grind.

Little Divisoria

Going the rounds, one invariably hears karaoke music like "I believe" blaring in the background. Pinays hover around the food counters, sniffing down spanish adobo, rice, dinuguan, pinakbet and halo-halo on styrofoam boxes while standing around tricycle ads (a short supply) at "Little Quiapo, "Wellpoint fast-fast Store," "Every Mart" or "Tindahan ni Mang Andoy." The latter has its own variety on the Ramchi design, which is a take in the wall on Lockhart Street offering Asia-rare native food to the Pinoy community. With its lackluster signage, unkempt tables and dingy counters, it's definitely down-market and is patronized mainly by the domestics. Any adventurous non-Pinoys wanting to sample the exotic food would probably be those who don't mind eating in roadside stalls (involving occasional squat).

It seems a pity that Hong Kong's largest foreign community does not have a better restaurant (as do the Thai, Indian and Indonesian communities) for Hong Kong locals and expatriates to patronize. The Cebu Restaurant in Waterfut has Pinoy food in its menu, but it mainly specializes in Thai, Indonesian and Malay cuisine, all of which are considered tastier and more exotic.

Fiesta atmosphere

Mr. favorite store at World Wide is "Little Divisoria," even though it has a rather grumpy elderly seller. Drawn to weekly visits Manilans are lured especially like cigarettes and salsuyot, green mangoes, avocados, sunsot and much else. Though my mouth waters, I've resisted buying the peeled sunsot wrapped in a large jar of water, preferring to buy the unpeeled fresh (fearing, perhaps unfairly, that the peeled fruits) is usually bad and that the water is polluted).

In the section where "Filipino Enterprises," "Fiesta Mart," "Filipinas Travel Club" and "Mr. Yee Philippine Products" advertise their services are "Thousand Island Mailing Company," and the "Marcan Island Memorial Garden (Mariyaden, Lapulapu City, Cebu)" which their most up-market facades. But too many clients seem to go to this latter shop, perhaps because most migrant workers can't afford memorial plans...or would rather not think of death in the midst of teeming Hong Kong.

Belly to belly shopping

A homesick Pinoy wanting to recapture the Divisoria (Tondo) go to World Wide on Sundays. It's a city-one will love or hate. If one dislikes mobs, one should stay away. If one enjoys rubbing elbows (and other parts) with compatriots, one should go.

Fiesta atmosphere

Especially when I recently went to buy avocadoes at Little Divisoria, made me think of the lyrics of a song from my youth—the Kingston Trio's "Back in back, belly to belly ... And I've done that already ..."

The throng was such that it felt like downtown Quiapo during the Black Nazarene festival—a unique experience that made me think I'd never left home.

WHERE the Pilipino workers are: in front of World Wide Plaza in Hong Kong makes them feel they never left the Philippines.

LOCKED: Familiar, but this is not Plaza Miranda; it's Hong Kong's Central District which owes its success to Filipino food, like no others

He made millions out of 'balikbayan' boxes in Australia

By Martin Andanar
Contributor

IT WAS 1987 WHEN PABLO TAGLE, A native of El Nido, Palawan, became convinced that the future of his family in the Philippines became dimmer and dimmer. Faced with political instrumentation, Pablo, or Boy to his friends, packed his clothes, withdrew his savings of P350,000 pesos, and brought his wife and two children to Sydney, Australia.

He had actually been given three options to move to: the Philippines, the third time was in 1972. "I was invited by my sister to Australia." The second was in 1976 when he had the chance to migrate to the United States. He ignored both opportunities. "I was idealistic and naive then," he says.

But in 1987, when coup attempts began troubling the administration of President Corazon Aquino, he felt the country's and his future were going nowhere. "I just had to leave when the third one knocked on my door."

Boy left a promising marketing career in a pharmaceutical company in Manila, then swallowed his pride and worked menial jobs in Sydney. He began working as a laborer in a soda and juice manufacturer and later as a letter-sorter in the Australian Post Office.

First job

It was really tough and heart-breaking. "I had to work from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. standing in the warehouse," he says. Like most who entered Filipinos who migrated, he found the reality that not all Philippine values do not necessarily transfer in Australia. "Sa Pilipinas's work was the only answer and it became an frustrating, consuming the job I had in the Philippines."

Boy's first break came in 1991 when his friend Mario Tan, a leading remittance businessman in Manila, offered him to be his business partner in Sydney. Tan had asked him to help him put a remittance center. Down Under.

Birth of an OFW firm

"In the beginning, clients came few and far between," he says. "I would wake up in the wee hours of the morning answering phone calls of friends working in shifts who wanted to remit money to their families back home."

His Filipino clients would soon inspire if he offered holidaypax but as visas.

Soy saw the opportunity and grabbed it at once. Thus, the IBM Express International was born. He made his first round trip. It was a major success. Until then, there was only one company doing the holidaypax but business there and the service was poor since Filipinos had to bring the boxes to the store themselves. "Instead of them to pick up the boxes in their homes using my old station wagon," he says.

Little did he know he would be bombarded by phone calls from Filipinos he didn't even know all wanting their holidaypax boxes picked up.

Heeding the call for a more efficient service, Boy organized the first network of holidaypax home drop-off points in the service city of Sydney, a first from an enterprising new Filipino-led on the block.

From 200 kilos of holidaypax boxes per week in 1992, Boy and his wife Grizelo would soon face an unmanageable 3,000 kilos of holidaypax boxes per week.

Palawan beach resort

"At first officials of the airline carrier wouldn't give a cent to notice me," he says. "But they changed their mind when I was offering 1,000 kilos." Soon his boss at the post office would complain about his habitual absences. His neighbors would also complain of the noisy hustle started in front of their house.

"We eventually had to buy a warehouse in Wilshire Street and quit our jobs to work on the house full time," he says.

IBM Express International is now a household name not only in New South Wales but also in South Australia, Queensland, Adelaide and Victoria. It has also evolved into several branches of groceries in New South Wales, importation, food processing and packaging business.

Boy now says that majority of Filipino-run remittance households in Australia would have Filipino-made products, among them sardines, canned beef, bagoong, balut, kiwasli and even soda crapins, that are either imported, processed or packaged by IBM International Express.

PABLO TAGLE AND WIFE CONNIE IN SYDNEY, 2004
Times have changed

Now the Tagle family is thinking of branching its businesses to Filipino-Australians.

In 2000, the Filipino-Australian Business Chamber named Boy as the top business-man of New South Wales. "Ang dami kong napag-aralan, kumpara sa ang pagiging pasa sa bayan," he tells the reporter.

Despite his success Linna Tagle, the 30-year-old Boy remains a true Filipino at heart. While his children, Tristan and Tyler, operate the business in Australia, Boy devotes most of his time in the Philippines creating employment by establishing a food processing and packaging plant in Antipolo, developing a resort he calls the IM Lazaro in El Nido and setting up a school for the needy natives of his hometown El Nido, Palawan.

Iran starts up second nuclear fuel network

TEHRAN—IRAN HAS STARTED enriching uranium in a second experimental network of centrifuges, Iran's student news agency Isna said on Friday, expanding a program which the West fears is intended to make nuclear bombs.

Isna quoted an "informed source" as saying 'the injection of gas was carried out" in the past week. "We have obtained the product of the second cascade," the source said.

UF6 gas, converted from uranium ore, is injected into cylinder-like centrifuges which spin at supersonic speeds to heighten the product's fissile content. Enrichment can yield fuel for power plants or, ultimately, material for atomic bombs.

Isna, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, says its atomic program aims to meet energy needs. But it has failed to convince world powers, who are threatening UN sanctions after Tehran failed to heed a UN demand to halt enrichment work.

Iran is running two test cascades of 164 interlinked centrifuges each. It could need thousands running nonstop for months to yield enough high-enriched uranium for one atom bomb.

Analysts say Iran is at least three years away from that point.

US President George W. Bush said in Washington he was aware of "speculation" that Iran had started enriching uranium in a second cascade [centrifuges] network of centrifuges.

"Whether they doubled it or not, the idea of Iran having a nuclear weapon is unacceptable," Bush said.

Iranian Defense Minister Ali-Shamkhani said it was too early to speak about Iran being able to produce weapons-grade uranium, and that he "did not share the concerns about this."

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors confirmed Iran enriched token amounts of uranium with an initial pilot cascade in April, although it appears to have more efficient vacuum-tested cluster without UF6 inside.

France's foreign Ministry spokesperson Jean-Baptiste Mattei said the Isna report raised international concerns about the growth of Iran's capacity to produce fissile material.

"The priority is to move to settle the question of (nuclear) Council resolutions," Mattei told reporters in Paris.

A British government source said: "The fact that they've now started to feed stuff through the centrifuge isn't going to shock anyone. But it still demonstrates further Iranian intransigence and that will all be taken in the round."

Iran now faces possible sanctions for failing to shelve its enrichment project, as demanded by the UN Security Council. A draft sanctions resolution has been drawn up by European states but Russia has expressed misgivings about the proposal. Reuters

AND THE BULL WINS Heath Shirley of Australia gets thrown from "Super Cow" during the Professional Bullriders World Finals Oct. 27 at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. (AFP/Al Bello)

Control of US Senate hinges on 4 races

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—KEITH Ian Ellis George Allen hoped all along his 2006 reelection campaign would draw national attention, but probably not the attention it is gaining now as one of the races that could tip control of the Senate to Democrats.

Allen, who had presidential ambitions, is struggling to hold off Democratic challenger Jim Webb in one of four races in the New 7 congressional elections that strategists from both parties say will likely settle the overall battle for Senate control. His party recently felt obliged to pay for $1.4 million in television ads to safeguard a seat long thought safe.

In a reflection of the stakes, the two parties will spend more than $25 million combined on television in the campaign's final two weeks in Tennessee, Missouri, New Jersey and Virginia, a lineup that could not have been foreseen even a few weeks ago.

"A year ago the focus was on the same traditionally competitive states like Pennsylvania and Ohio," Sen. Chuck Schumer, head of the Democratic campaign effort, said recently, referring to two races where Democrats appear likelier to defeat Republican incumbents.

"It is a tougher electoral cycle for Republicans," agreed Sen. Elizabeth Dole, head of the Republican campaign arm.

Democrats must gain six seats to win control, and they have strong leads in Rhode Island and Montana as well as Pennsylvania and Ohio. Thirty-three seats in the 100-member Senate are up for a vote.

Strategists in both parties calculated long ago that Missouri's race would be close, with Democratic state auditor Claire McCaskill challenging first-term Republican Sen. Jim Talent. With a statewide referendum on stem cell research also on the ballot, it has since been clear for months that the issue would help Democrats. Talent opposes the expansion of federally funded efforts in a field that scientists say holds promise for the treatment of many diseases.

Controversy flared after McCaskill's campaign aired a television commercial in which actor Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, exhibited the uncontrollable shaking that is symptomatic of the illness.

"They say all politics is local, but it's not always the case. What you do in Missouri can wave in millions of Americans—most of us like me," Fox says in the ad.

Strategists seemed so unlikely years later a pivotal race has Republican strategists are frustrated. Congressman Harold Ford Jr., hoping to become the first black elected to the Senate from the South since the aftermath of the US Civil War, of 1863-65, has proven to be an excellent candidate.

The Republican, former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker, who is white, stumbled after winning his nomination.

The contest has grown closer in the weeks since, and strategists in both parties see the outcome may ultimately hinge on race.

The issue exploded into public view in recent days when a Republican Party-financed ad showed a white woman saying she had met Ford at a Playboy Club party. The woman did not wink with the woman, her bare shoulders visible, looking into the camera and exhorting, "Harold, call me."

The commercial does not mention that Ford is black, but to those seeing coverage from Democratic and their allies who said it evoked deep-seated prejudices about interracial dating. AP

$10-M settlement reached in clergy sex abuse case

LOS ANGELES—THE ARCHDIOCESE of Los Angeles said a Roman Catholic religious order will pay $10 million to several people to settle allegations of clergy sexual abuse, lawyers for those involved in the cases said.

The Carmelite order will pay most of the settlement to seven people, including two who said they were sexually molested at a high school, a lawyer for that province of the Carmelite order said Friday. The archdiocese will contribute about 3 percent.

"We were glad to be able to work out a settlement, and we hope this brings peace to the people who are involved," said lawyer Jim Cocks, representing the province of Carmelites involved in the lawsuit.

"We're satisfied with the archdiocese's participation. These particular claims involved actions against Carmelites serving in Carmelite institutions," he said.

The defendants in the case included Brennis Fowler, a Carmelite priest, who spent several years as a teacher and administrator at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, and John Rineer-Schild, a former principal at the school, Cocks said.

Mitat Sellita, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs, said the seventh round of such cases averaged $1.4 million.

The seven Carmelite cases are dwarfed by more than 500 unresolved cases by people who claim they were abused by Catholic priests in Southern California over the last 70 years. That litigation has been pending for years. AP

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Olaroo

Cheney accused of backing water torture

WASHINGTON—VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY said on Friday he was not referring to "water boarding" or any interrogation technique in a radio interview, after critics accused him of endorsing simulated drowning by agreeing that a "think in water" for terrorism suspects might be useful.

His wife Lynne and President George W. Bush defended his comments to the radio station after human rights groups criticized him as approving "water boarding," a technique the groups consider torture.

The vice president was asked on Sunday by a conservative radio host from Fargo, North Dakota: "Would you agree a think in water is torture/makes it so one never lives?"

"Well, it's a no-brainer for me," replied Cheney as part of a campaign by Republicans to keep national security on the minds of voters ahead of Nov. 7 congressional elections.

Returning from a day trip to Missouri and South Carolina on Friday, Cheney told reporters on board his plane an over used the term "water boarding" in the radio interview and he had not been talking any specific techniques.

"I don't talk about techniques. I wouldn't. I have said that the interrogation program for a select number of detainees is very important. It has been I think one of the most valuable intelligence programs that we have," Cheney said.

Earlier, his wife Lynne Cheney leaped to his defense. "This is complete distortion. He didn't say anything of the kind," she said.

"This country doesn't torture. We're not going to torture."

He will interrogate people on pick up off the battlefield to determine whether or not they've got information that will be helpful to protect the country" Bush told reporters.

Tom Malinowski, Washington advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, said Cheney's statement could backfire on Americans. "If Iran or Syria detained an American, Cheney is saying that it would be perfectly fine for them to hold that American's head under water until he nearly drowns, if that's what they think they need to do to save freedom or Syrian lives."

US interrogation techniques came under scrutiny after revelations emerged of detainee abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan, and after the revelation last year that the CIA ran secret prisons outside the United States for terrorism suspects. Reuters

CHENEY

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WORLDBRIEFS

2 buses torched as France marks riots anniversary

CLICHY-SOUS-BOIS, France—Arsonists set fire to two buses in a common Paris suburb on Friday, the first anniversary of the start of the worst riots in the French capital in nearly 40 years. A police source said two headed were bombed one bus in front of a train station in the Seine-Saint-Denis suburb in the early evening, and ordered about 15 passengers and the driver to get off before setting it alight. The second bus was attacked in a similar way by two armed men in another part of the suburb, a local official said. At least five buses have been attacked by poor suburbs around the capital since Tuesday and police have said violence could spiral out of control once again. Four thousand vehicles were destroyed around France on Friday evening. Tensions remain high in France's numerous suburbs, where poor job prospects, racial discrimination, a widespread sense of alienation from mainstream society and unresolved tensions surfacing sparked off the wave of violence 12 months ago. In the first six months of 2006, some 21,000 cars were burned and 23,880 attacks recorded against the police, fire and ambulance services.

Reuters

Pinochet charged in secret jail deaths

PINOCHET

SANTIAGO—Former dictator Augusto Pinochet was charged Friday with the alleged murders of inmates in an infamous secret jail where Chile's current president, Michelle Bachelet, was tortured during his 1973-1990 iron rule. Judge Alejandro Solis charged that Pinochet was responsible in 28 cases of "forced disappearances," a murder and 23 cases of torture committed in the jail. The human rights case involves torture allegedly committed at Villa Grimaldi, a secret jail where Bachelet and her mother were tortured. More than 4,500 inmates passed through its doors, 250 of which were supposedly murdered. Meanwhile, another Chilean judge ordered Friday to probe the authenticity of documents showing Pinochet had stashed nine bars of gold in Hong Kong at HSBC bank, which maintains the documents are fake. Pinochet, 90, has said he innocently he enjoyed as a former dictator's rules of Chile, on several occasions, but has never stood trial for any of the 3,000 cases of deaths and torture committed, according to an official count. Pinochet is also under investigation for alleged tax evasion and fraud following the discovery of previously undisclosed bank accounts in the United States. He is under house arrest. Villa Grimaldi, the name of a former mansion in Santiago, was a torture center from 1973 until 1978 run by Pinochet's feared secret police. EFE

AFP

Marine 98th US casualty this month in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A US Marine has been killed in action in western Iraq, the military announced Saturday, bringing the number of American dead this month to 98. "One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Friday from injuries sustained during enemy action while operating in Al Anbar province," a statement said, without giving further details. Anbar is the heartland of the Sunni insurgency in Iraq and includes the restive cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. At least 2,900 members of US forces have now been killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

AFP

$100,000 reward for arrest of arsonist

BOULDER, California—An arson named through the canyons of Southern California, authorities announced the reward to $100,000 for the arrest of the accused responsible for the deaths of four firefighters in the nation's worst such tragedy in five years. A 360-firefighter lay in great condition with burns over 90 percent of his body. Firefighters on Friday labored through rough-fired conditions of wind-whipped flames Santa pushed through unmanaged brushland about 100 km east of Los Angeles. The blaze that broke out Thursday destroyed about 91 structures, including homes, burned 700 people to flee, and flushed coyotes and other wildlife into the open. Investigators have not said how they know the 759-by-45-foot was arson, how it was set, or why. But they said those responsible could face murder charges.

AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ La Salle booters, Lady Eagles win/A27

Sunday SPORTS

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■ Little David becomes a Goliath/A28

Another PSC revamp shapes up

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A TOP LEVEL REVAMP IS IN the offing yet again in the Philippine Sports Commission.

A highly reliable source inside the commission confirmed that PSC chair Ritchie Ramirez and three of his four commissioners are on the way out right after the Asian Games in Doha this December.

The source added that Ramirez himself knew of the impending shakeup and had already announced that he is on his way out whatever happens in the Asiad Games, where he is also Chef de Mission of the Philippine delegation.

At the same time, Ramirez, the source pointed out, had expressed his gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo for the opportunity given him to serve as PSC chair.

Being floated this early as the possible cleanup on the PSC's eighth chair since the agency's creation in 1990 are Manila North Council and presidential assistant on youth and sports Ali Atienza, ex-commissioner and currently Department of Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Ray Roquero and incumbent commissioner Richie Garcia.

Ramirez, a sportsman from Davao who joined the PSC as commissioner in 1995, became the officer in charge of the PSC in January 2005 after Jose Balagtas was transferred to the Games and Amusement Board.

He became a full-fledged PSC chair several months later. Other sources said the Malacañang order for a reshuffle may even be issued anytime soon due to talks of fear after the Asian Games.

Atienza is a strong contender for PSC chair with his father Lito, the Manila Mayor, among the administration's top backers.

Garcia is being supported by top GMA ally Rep. Rhoda Puentevella. He served as commissioner during the time of Butch Tuason and came back on board under Tuason's helm.

Roquero served as commissioner in the early 90s and even acted as executive director of the agency under close Ignacio Moya.

JECK. Ready to leave for US. (STORY ON A30)

Two world title fights in 'Grand Finale' card

TWO WORLD TITLE FIGHTS HAVE BEEN scheduled in the May 18 "Grand Finale" card featuring the third Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales encounter at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

The much-awaited Orzus Wise-Brian Vilorias rematch for the WBC light flyweight crown has officially been included in the undercard with the Pil-Ah Vilorias expected to exact revenge against his Mexican tormentor.

With the WBO title in his recently vacated by Miguel Cotto, Top Rank's Bob Arum was quick to arrange for the top two contenders to collide for the title.

WBO No. 1 "Mighty Mike" Ammonia and No. 2 Ricardo Torres will now vie for the WBO junior welter title, thus becoming the third 22 number on the card.

Marquez-Morales is also set for 12 rounds with the WBC International super featherweight title of the Filipino losing supervise the line.

Ammonia, 17-0-1 with nine knockouts, hails from Athens, Greece, but lives and trains in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Torres is 20-1, with 20 KOs. He comes from Barranquilla, Colombia.

Meanwhile, Filipino boxer "The Executioner" Juan gets another chance to take on WBO interim featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez on Nov. 25 in McAllen, Texas.

The bout was originally scheduled last Oct. 21, but was scrapped after Juan's failure to secure a US visa.

Juan was recently granted a F1 visa by the US embassy in Manila and said he is ready to leave for the US anytime. Salvan Lagumbay

Miñoza slips with 2nd 74

MANILA, Philippines—Rookie MIÑOZA could do no better than a second straight two-over-par 74 in the third round Saturday and lost further ground in the P1,250,000,000 (P50,000,000) ABC Championship here.

The 47-year-old Filipino star, who shot a 67 Thursday to enter just a stroke off the lead, dropped into a six-way tie for 36th place with a 220 total, 13 behind new leader Hisayuki Sasaki of Japan.

Sasaki shot another 67 for a 203 total and a one-stroke lead over first round leader Yi Yang of Taiwan, who rallied with a 70. Anthony Isadel Nicanor Jones of Japan fell to third at 207 after matching par 72 at the ABC Golf Club course here.

Miñoza floundered on the front nine with four bogeys but recovered somewhat on the Ocean course with birdies on the 11th and 15th holes. Ipsala

C. Lhuillier, Mail and More keep modest targets

By Jeanine W. Poyo

THEY'VE TEAMS BUILT AROUND THE RECORD PBL rookie and dispersal drafts.

Do not surprisingly, guest teams Cebuana Lhuillier and Mail and More have kept their expectations modest. "We have to make do with the talents that we have, we're the last teams to assemble," Cebuana Lhuillier coach Lolgi Tello.

Cebuana Lhuillier acquired MVP Most Valuable Player Eva Bonn from Shoemaka.

Mail and More also found a reliable big man in JC Quilantes. Granny Goose's main threats in previous conferences, Manuela and Granny Goose released their players as the season began and after filing a letter of protest in the Silver Cup, subsidiaries all but Vice 13.

"We're overlooked, but we like it that way," said Gilad and Mail and More Lenmerie Chongson. "We're just low-key, no rumbles, no promises."

Aside from Bonn, Cebuana Lhuillier also enlisted mentor-members Doug Kramer and Shirley Bonifacio. Manuela top-gunners Jefferson Gonzales and newcomer Eric Arda Gomez, Emerson Jerez and Billy Santos.

"Even if we have highly-touted players, this is a team player lineups, there's more hanging," said Tello, the youngest coach in the league at 33.

Mail and More got Jed DMP three-link champion Elmer Espiritu and Asid Gabionza of the University of the East, Basilio Aguinaldo College star Bunjo Bunsak, Miguel's Jerby del Rosario and University of the Philippines' Senior David.

"More than the talent, it's the desire that I'm looking for," said Chongson. "The UAAP and the NCAA just finished, and since most of them are collegiate players, we're expecting that everyone's still enthusiastic."

Chongson and Tello hope that their young squads will survive our early tournament troubles.

"We're schedule, but we have the underdog tag," said Chongson. "Hopefully we'll just surprise everyone." Both coaches also points out that time lost on their side. While today two weeks left before the season three off, Champion has yet to finalize Mail and More's 15-man roster.

"Right now we have a pool of 21," he said. "Until are cookies in the PBL. But we'll be a promising and maturing team. We want them to handle, to change the opponents' offense."

Tello, on the other hand, claims chemistry is still an issue for Cebuana Lhuillier, which only had a week of practice so far.

"We'll just try to be adaptable," he said. "We'll give him the ball, but we'll make sure we run as well. Be sure is balanced."

BOND

PBA broadcast innovations

FORUMA BOOTER Danny Gonzales of Manila, it's such a "pleasant surprise" to see the increase in coverage of the current team standings.

"The Realtors are up there for a number of reasons," he added. "Good several weeks ago [Ellsbert's] Mets. Pitching statistics should pay dog. Allowing runs. Anybody to stop opposite. Aces responds and results."

While MLB coach Alfonso's Chua is understandably happy over the Realtors' 4-1 start this season, he cautions not to be too excited.

"I'm not excited but surprised pang inhin. I keep telling my players to work harder and not to think of the standings.

"I tell them we are where we are now because their hard work in pasing calls," Al said.

It's greatest fear though, is injury.

"I keep praying that all my players stay healthy, para kompleto para at ang line-up namin. For the past four years, 3-out, sometimes ang injuries sa bench, para pwde pa."

Other PBA fans who called us on radio last Saturday agreed with Danny Gonzales' observation not only about top team Sta. Lucia, but Alaska as well, which is now vie, typically at the bottom of the heap.

Sentiment is that Alaska is slowly turning the services of key players Mike Cortes and Bayani Hugnatan who are both injured, reason why they are dead last...at the moment.

As of presstime, SLR was scheduled to play against Talk 'N' Text in Pampanga. TNT roster seven-player pairs with Jimi Hall and Ernesto at #3.

The fans who called in last Saturday also noted the innovations on the broadcast coverage of the PBA.

They commented on Lauren Sonny's new face sets there in the panel, and if there was any who would be replaced.

ABS-S program manager Winston de la Cruz said that while there may be additions to the panel, there are no substitutions of personalities.

For PX, the addition of pro Joel Bacal, Charlie Cruz and Rudy Dimaildier who's actually a built-ABS-S, while the new faces on radio are former PBA rugger Leo Isaac and Jolly Escobar and Patricia Bermudez-Rizon.

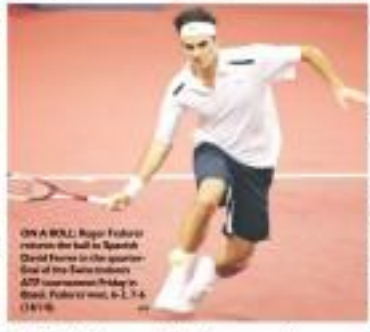
Winston said they are thinking of including Brod Pete in the telecast, perhaps to provide comic relief.

"The introduction of new faces is only a part of our total effort to achieve the 26/26 target set by PBA chairman Ricky Vargas and the PBA board. For ABC-5, the goal is to have 26 games by 26 persons," Winston disclosed, adding if I had noticed the other innovations.

"We have improved graphics, including visual effects. Also, we have been focusing on improving the coherence of our coverage, reason why we got more game analysts, instead of chats panelists and basketball players. We also got more female reporters like Iris Belonio and Marja Vargas who, by the way is the daughter-in-law of chairman Vargas."

So far, Winston said they are on target in achieving the 26/26 target.

HIGHLIGHTS: Sports Vigilantes Teddy Bayonon and Elmer Sto. Manila are all-praise for Johnny Abarrientos who they said is still in good fighting shape. "Kaya pang maki-pagsabayan sa, mabilis pa sila kay Jojo. Definitely, expect ako na mga Kamakay niyang magkaro... Teddy also noted the improvement of Richard del Rosario who has been elevated to the PBA broadcast panel. "He's getting better and better every time," Teddy said. Glad that ABC hired Dennis Del Rosario. Colmenares is the time to watch the PBA games. Looks like he hasn't missed an RMR match this season.



ON A ROLL: Roger Federer returns the ball to Spanish David Ferrer in the quarterfinal of the Swiss Indoors ATP tournament Friday in Basel. Federer won, 6-1, 7-6 (10/10).

Golden double for Gen. Santos badminton ace

By Mart Anthony Reyes

A DECATHLETE FROM GEN. SANTOS CITY MANAGED TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT from Manila's impending overall victory yesterday by snaring two gold medals on the penultimate day of the 2nd Manila South Games national invitational at The San Andres Gym.

Samuel Delago, one of only 19 delegates from Cotabato, whipped Elmo Jose Vil of Batangas, 21-4, 21-11, for the boys' 17 under-singles crown before teaming up with Allan Alderete to doubles by Gobay and Jake Bernardez Manuel of Quezon City, 21-18, 21-14, for the doubles title.

The twins golds by the 17 year-old Delago were the first two medals in the week-long meet for the Mindanao team. A Palaro veteran, Delago is a computer engineering freshman at the Holy Trinity College in Gensan, which is popularly known as the hometown of Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao.

With a total of 58 gold medals on top of 37 silvers and 24 bronzes, Manila is poised to complete its title romp with an eighteen-title harvest today in archery and judo.

Manila also scored in badminton, thanks to Jan Angeles, who claimed the girls' 17-under singles championship after posting a 21-17, 21-10 victory over Fey Rose of Mandaluyong.

Rose fought back in the mixed doubles when she and Rommeer Macalalad edged Jessa Gerona and Sherra Mae Hinayon of Cavidon City 20-21, 21-18, 21-17, for the title.

Nikola Gabriel Mendoza and Margaret Cayetano (in gone Quezon City a gold after beating Bangsha and Jayne Ann Ignacio, 21-11, 21-13, in girls' doubles.

Quezon City remained in second place overall with a 16-21-23 gold-silver-bronze tally followed by Laguna Province which amassed 10-6-6. Dagupan City (5-15-13), Mandaluyong City (7-12-12), Cavidon City (7-12-7) and Tagaig City (3-4-6).

Meanwhile, Cavidon City's Rhealyn Pascua, the phenomenal Sanchian jumper and sprinter, earned a scholarship grant from MPSC chief executive officer and Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza.

NBL College Challenge Cup up

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines, spurred by the election of Sen. Reggie Rilloraki as its new president, hopes to revitalize its thrust of discovering and developing cage talent through the revival of the National Basketball League known as the NBL College Challenge Cup.

NBL president Dionisio Ilas said plans to launch the tournament on Nov. 11 to Dec. 10, tapping member schools still remained back up.

Among the prospective invitees are Philippine College of Criminology PCC, G1, St. Jude College and Trinity University of Asia of CEAA, St. Clarke College and University of Manila (UM) of NCAA, New Era University of UBAA, Perpetual Help University of Laguna from PSCAA South, Angeles University of Pampanga from PSCAAA.

"Our goal is to be a home-and-away tournament to revive interest in basketball in different cities through the support of local government units and corporate sponsors.

DIMAKILING

Gomez, Dimakiling near grandmaster result

INTERNATIONAL MASTER-ELECT John Paul Gomez and IM Oliver Dimakiling handled their respective matches to boost their Grandmaster title bids in the eighth and penultimate round of the IM Cabin Chess Festival Friday in Malolos, Bulacan.

The 20-year-old Gomez steamed GM Enrico Mascariñas of Armenia while Dimakiling, 27, beat IM Marcin Orabis of Poland to catch 5.5 points each and share 10th to 20th place.

Gomez and Dimakiling need to win in their final matches against GM Pete Pomeroy Salipe of Spain and GM Michele Godena of Italy respectively to have a crack at the GM result.

Tying at 23rd to 35th places were IM Jayson Gonzales (2010) of Quezon City and 13-year-old IM Shirley Seworth 5.5 points each.

Gonzales beat Spain's Arthur Ulfe Rodriguez Gonzalez to draw his match with Swedish Ulrika Gunding.

Gonzales will face IM Thomas Smallo in the last round while he takes on IM Holden Hernandez.

IM Darwin Laylo bested to 12th Hobeck Burkinary of Poland and remained at 6.5 points. Layla meets Al Rhien of Spain in the last round.

GM Irine Sukhirv of the Ukraine leads second-overnight solo leader GM Alekse Stellwell of Serbia and Montenegro to grab the solo lead with 6.5 points. Stellwell saw at 6.0 points with seven other GMs. NM Marlon Bernardino

Rizal grabs chess lead

CAUAYAN IS ORO CITY—RIZAL province finished in the lower boards to oust Cavite, 3.5-0.5, and grab the solo lead after four rounds of the 2006 National Inter-Province Chess Team Championship at the Cimbertal Mall Activity Center Tuesday.

David Elera, Shenjoseph Dagohoy and Mohd Pisara handled their respective opponents on boards two to four to power Rizal Province of Gov. Casimiro Ynares to victory. National Master Robert Suelo Jr. scored a shutout for Cavite when he drew with Rizal's board one player NM Oliver Barbosa.

Rizal also beat Misamis Oriental 4, 2-1, in the third round last Friday.

PARAGUA

Overall, Rizal has 12.5 points out of a possible 16 in the seven-round tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay in cooperation with Misamis Oriental Governor Oscar Moreno.

Cavite, led by GM Joel A. Antonio, is second with 11 points. Pampanga headed by GM Mark Paragua and Samuar Lim, handled Cebu and Cabanatuan, 3-1, to take solo second place with 12 points. Pampanga busted Ilo Ilo Province 3.5-0.5 while Lim overpowered Daniel Canon. Defending champion Laguna made it easy by downing Misamis Oriental 4-0, 3-1, on victories by GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and Thomas Herrera over NM Lari Mercado and Carlos Herrera III. GM Marlon Bernardino

RP 26 shots off Canada

THE PHILIPPINES LADIES 4 SIX over 150 to a pair of 75 by Marvin Simmonds and Jay Reynes and dropped to a share of 40th place Friday 26 shots off Canada after two rounds of the World Amateur Golf Team Championship in Switzerland, South Africa.

The Filipinos are lined perennial to at least match the 36th place they finish dished out by the team of Jamie Simmonds and Jay Reynes and dropped to a share of 40th place Friday 26 shots off Canada after two rounds of the World Amateur Golf Team Championship in Switzerland, South Africa.

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Elliot, whose 77 score for the massive first round jumped of 134 Thursday, wound up with a 79 Friday for 213.

Canada fired a second straight 139 to remain at the helm with a 276, just one up on 13-time champion United States.

SPORTSWATCH

Two bouts on Fisherama today

FISTICUFFS IN CAMPOSANTO AT 2:00 PM. THE BOUT FOR TWELVE ROUNDS... weights Rodrigo Abon Jr. and Christopher Pacot and featherweights Leonardo Tamayo and Alberto Jimenez. Tournament is also undercarded before jointly through MIS-UBA Global Limited's The Filipino Channel Pinoy Central and SPN 9. Boff Pineda Pico will be referee at 2 p.m.

UBBA Stagwars slated at Religon

THE TWIN SEASON OF UNITED BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (UBBA) Stagwars 4 wing starts tomorrow at Religon Mega Gadget Nov. 4. More than 100 participants are gearing up for this stapled featuring 200 fights. Six-seed slots of 12 each... said UBBA cabinet Pipoy Patricio. Meanwhile, Religon owner Polly Lopez announced yesterday that promoters Norman Lacuna, Ben Barbarona and Jerry Ang and Nonoy Sandiligan are Religon's Stags and Stagettes, starting Nov. 5.

LGBA-Calabazan elims Nov. 4

ELIMINATIONS IN THE 2006 NATIONAL SINAGWAN 9-MAN BOWLING CONTEST start on Nov. 4 at San Jose Coliseum with 100 newcomers lined up. The 3-day elims will be participated by members of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA). Among LGBA's 193 members, six have already advanced to the Calabazan semifinals after posting four wins each last Oct. 22. Mayor's Prints of Nueva Ecija's Bonifacio Abesamis, Joseph Chua (BJ Lumber), Rafa's Valet and Jose Bautista against Bonifacio's, Lanzo Chua (Mayor's Print) and Arman Gaviola (DPC Jam Production). LGBA president Peter Ong and his group aims to bring home the Calabazan title this year.

CANADA CHEERS IN: Vice Ramolo (left) and Judge Edgar Harding make the ceremonial moves of the Canoga National Open Chess Tournament held recently. Standing from left, Jun Cubian, Bernardo Cruz, Ariel Manuntacan, Dr. Jerry Mayor and Hugo Elmo dela Torre.

UNIVERSITY GAMES

La Salle booters, Lady Eagles win

By Cedrif F. Ilusa and Christian Ir Tan

UNIVERSITY of Saint's Ilysa Pingoto challenges the defense of Adamson's Julius Colcol in their game yesterday. NOEL CELIS/AFP

BACOLOD CITY — Host St. La Salle kept its game in back and a 5-4 shootout victory over local rival Philippines College yesterday and captured its third straight men's football crown in three the limelight with the Bacolod Lady Eagles on the penultimate day of the National University Games here.

Liz Salle striker Florence Pardon went his spotkick to the bottom left corner for the title-clinching goal, last moments after WMC's Arleana Calen saw his shot rattle the bar and go wide.

Although the Flint Negros booters, who at as host to La Salle in last year's finals, enjoyed long spells of possession early on, they could not capitalize with Robert Galindo, Siegfred Sprunda and Calen all missing some close goal-scoring chances from close range.

The La Salleites also got a huge lift from Miguel Coronacion, who played as midfield in the first two games, before playing goalkeeper in the final three games, replacing the ineffective Jonathan Jacalanta.

Over at the St. La Salle Coliseum, the Lady Eagles ended their season on a high note, pounding Adamson Soaring 32-10 triumph over the Falcons University.

With Carey Tinsoco slugging the middle, the Arenistas overcame a 13-point deficit early in the second half and held the Lady Tamaraws to just four points in the final period.

Tinsoco finished with 22 points in pacing the Lady Eagles, who lost to the Lady Tams in the UAAP Final Four recently.

"The UAAP loss was further on our minds. This is a great end to our season," Arenas coach John Flores told the Inquirer.

Meanwhile, former Champion Emilio Agustinho college declassified West Negros College with a thrilling 69-67 win that set up a E-rank showdown with Adamson University in the men's basketball tournament.

Chester Hosea scored 22 points, including two free throws with four seconds left that gave EAC a 68-64 cushion and helped the Generals reach revenge against the Mountaineers, who failed their "three-peat" bid last year in the semifinals.

The Generals survived the Mountaineer rampage with steady basket from Hosea and Jeepy Bernabe, whose step from the corner proved EAC's route to breathe, 62-53, with 1:04 left.

Wow Negros nearly missed twin towers Jessie Medina and Jonny Abaring, who are set to play for former de Manila University and Far Eastern U in the next UAAP season, respectively.

Bernabe scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half on 4-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc.

"My players were very tired late in the game but we're happy we got our revenge," said Generals coach Boysie Tolentino, who guided EAC to the University Games crown in 2004 and 2005.

Lawin Adamson scorer Jeff Gonzales scored a career-high 20 points for the Falcons, who dropped to 1-3.

Meanwhile, Arellano University outplayed Philippine Christian University 25-21, 25-23, 25-20 to capture the men's volleyball championship.

The Chiefs moved to 10-1 to secure the No. 1 seed in the Final Four.

In the women's division, Far Eastern University also swept Arellano, 25-20, 25-21, 25-20.

The Lady Dragons will face Philippine Christian University in the Final Four.

In men's volleyball, Far Eastern U and Philippine Christian U avenged a title showdown after overwhelming De La Salle-Dasmariñas and St. La Salle, respectively, at the USLS College Covered Court.

The Dolphins survived St. La Salle, 26-24, 15-25, 25-23, 25-20, before Sir Eastern overpowered De La Salle-D, 25-16, 20-25, 26-24, 25-13.

Preview: Yao's the man for Houston five

LOS ANGELES—[illegible] himself to the National Basketball Association's premier big man and as long as he stays healthy this season could very well be his coming-out party.

Yao was one of the league's best players after the all-star break last season and then he got sidelined by a broken foot.

"He is the best regular-season center in basketball. And the reason is he comes to play every night," said Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy.

Houston had high hopes for the giant Chinese center when they chose him first overall in the 2002 entry draft and he hasn't disappointed.

Now in his fifth NBA season, the 26-year-old from Shanghai has increased his power and production each year, going from 13.5 points per game average in the rookie season to 22.3 last season.

He now joins among the best centers in the league but Van Gundy believes he can take that further and really put his stamp on the position.

"He has gotten better from his first game in the NBA through now," Van Gundy said. "And he is one of the few guys who does not need any outside motivation to be a motivated player.

"There are the guys that have chances to be good because they care to put in the extra-daily work—but Yao puts in. Every athlete would maximize their potential if they did what Yao did, but they don't." AFP

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Cardinals claim World Series

Weaver shines for St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—[illegible] Louis Cardinals used an unlikely cast of characters to win their first World Series in 24 years by beating the Detroit Tigers 4-3 on Friday.

Pitcher Jeff Weaver dominated, David Eckstein drew in two runs on balls that didn't leave the infield and the Cardinals took advantage of another wild throw by a Tigers pitcher to complete the first-of-seven Series 4-1.

"I think we shocked the world," Cardinals center fielder Jim Edmonds said. "It's an unbelievable experience."

Manager Tony La Russa's Cardinals had just 83 regular-season wins, the fewest by a World Series winner, and nearly missed the playoffs after a late-season slump. But the Cardinals beat San Diego and the New York Mets in the playoffs, then won their first title since 1982 by routing a heavily favored Tigers' team that entered the Series with six days' rest.

After closer Adam Wainwright struck out Brandon Inge for the final out, Busch Stadium erupted. Wainwright raised his arms in triumph, catcher Yadier Molina ran to the mound and the pair hugged. Fireworks exploded. Soon, fans in the grey area joined by teammates running out from the dugout and the bullpen.

"I don't think anybody in uniform didn't do something in the postseason. Everyone did," said La Russa. "The defense was great. The pitching was great. Timely hitting. The best bench I've had in a long time."

"No one believed in us, but we believed in ourselves," said Edmonds, the 5-foot-7 shortstop who was named MVP.

On a cold night, the Tigers made two more errors, raising their Series total to eight—three by third baseman Inge and a second five by their pitchers. Eight of the 12 runs allowed by the Tigers were unearned, the most by a team since the 1956 New York Yankees against Brooklyn.

The Cardinals' were steady sharp, with the notable exception of right fielder Chris Duncan, who dropped a fly ball just before Sean Casey's two-run homer in the fourth during just Detroit's second 2-1.

Pressure, cast off by the Yankees three years ago after a World Series flop, allowed Inge hits in eight innings, matched his season high with nine strikeouts and walked one before Wainwright finished with a one-hit ninth for the save.

ST. LOUIS pitcher Jeff Weaver pumps his fist after striking out Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez. —

As the Tigers failed in their bid for their first title since 1984, their season ended with Kenny Rogers ejected and ready with no place to pitch. Rogers, who threw 22 shutout innings in the playoffs, was ejected by manager Jim Leyland for a possible sixth game on Saturday in Detroit. AP

BOSTON MVP

Little David becomes a Goliath

ST. LOUIS—DAVID ECKSTEIN TOOK his mother to dinner at the White House, made a believer of Barry Bonds, and got married at the Wax Museum Florida.

To Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland, the 5-foot-7 (1.7 meter) shortstop looks like a "runt, little kid."

Make that a World Series MVP, too.

"It was unreal out there," he said the crowd roaring for the St. Louis Cardinals on Friday.

Eckstein was hitless in his first 11 at-bats in the Series but then he hit three doubles and a single to win Game 4, then singled twice and drove in two runs in Game 5 as St. Louis beat Detroit 4-3 to clinch the title.

Eckstein finished 8-for-23, driving in four runs and scoring three.

When it was over, he hugged every player in the middle of the diamond—and got bruised off the ground.

Then it was his turn to lift the MVP trophy and receive the prize that comes with it: keys to a sparkling new, bright yellow Corvette.

He married actress Ashley Drane last November and their wedding reception featured an Alice in Wonderland theme.

His size and enthusiasm can also mask his skills. A two-time all-star who was waived by Boston in 2000, he's now a two-time World Series champion. AP

Homegrown hoops Nov. 4

THOSE WHO MISSED OUT ON THE STONEY-La Salle rivalry in the UAAP will have one chance to get in on the two schools trek it up this year in the Filoil-Flying V-homegrown Cup starting Nov. 4.

The Homegrown Cup features 10 schools with a strong alumni and student base. Most of the players are those who opted to stay "home" after graduating from a particular high school system, going on to play with the senior team of their respective universities or colleges.

Among the notable names in the field, Greg Slaughter and Mocky Escalona, and homegrown Blue Eagles like Jai Reyes, Nino Buenavento and Martin Quinsaat.

Archrival La Salle will have Ben Mbakwe, Dodo Villanueva, Ty Tang, JS Cullo as well as homegrowners Aachen, Wacko Barreras, Simon David and Jamar Mycoor.

The reigning NCAA Champs the San Beda Red Lions will have heterowatch Sam Ekwe wearing the red along with Ronald Pascual, Fred Ilustrisimo and Alex Angeles.

Ranking them up side will homegrowned Lions, Jay-R Taganas, Edward Caraan, Roger Gonzalez and Eduardo Sicam.

Their UAAP champion counterpart will likewise parade rebounding power Jervy Cruz along with Chester Taylor and Dylan Ababon. Taking the stage with them are the homegrown Tigers in Anthony Espiritu, Jun Castro and Japs Casio.

The Letran Knights will likely rely on their very own homegrown talents in John Molinyawe, Mark Belong and Rafael Arod.

The Philippine Arena, a venue of numerous cage wars, was chosen by the organizers to be the official venue of the league. Tickets shall be available at all Ticketnet at all SM outlets, the Philsports Complex, and the Filoil office at 912-7390.

The general admission section shall be given free to the members of the participating schools.

RACING

BY TOP ODDS

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

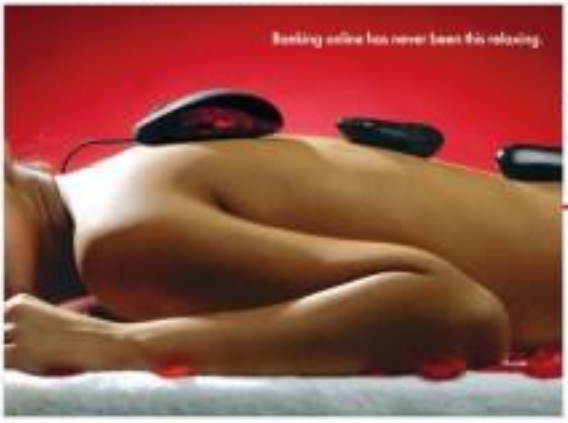
First, Davao , then, Manila ... soon, the world?

Housewife's 'puto-kutsinta' mix sets an international invasion

By Myrna Rodrigues-Cu
Contributor, UP Institute for Small Scale Industries

DAVAO CITY—NENITA Abad Rubino is a Tagalo from Nueva Ecija who now lives Davao with her Kasuyan Kakanin brand of puto, kutsinta, cupin cupin and mais blanco instant mixes.

NENITA Abad Rubino with samples of her products: powdered kakanin mixes, kakanin-to-go, and food flavors.



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METRO PACIFIC

METRO PACIFIC

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

[illegible] of shares of common stock of Metro Pacific Corporation (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "MPC") and persons entitled thereto on October 31, 2006 (Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") filed a Tender Offer Report ("SEC Form 19-1") with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. MPIC, which is a subsidiary duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, intends to acquire up to [illegible] of MPC's outstanding shares.

The consideration for the acquisition of the common shares of MPC in the Tender Offer ("Tender Offer Shares") is [illegible] shares in MPIC (the "MPIC Shares") and [illegible] in cash, plus [illegible] to purchase up to three (3) MPIC Shares for every 10 MPC Shares (or, for every four (4) shares in MPIC) after giving effect to the 1 for 20 reverse stock split approved by the SEC on August 21, 2006.

The Tender Offer shall commence on October 27, 2006, and end at 4:00 p.m. on November 30, 2006 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The closing of the acquisition of the Tender Offer is conditional upon the approval by the SEC of the listing by way of introduction of the outstanding MPIC shares (including the shares to be issued pursuant to the Tender Offer) and warrants and the listing of the underlying shares of the warrants.

The Tender Offer is not intended to be accepted by the PSE. In December 13, 2006 (the "Cross Date"), subject to PSE approval.

Shares and, if the Tender Offer Period is further extended, the Cross Date will be announced at the Tender Offer Period and December 4, 2006, the Cross Date. However, be officially declared a non-working holiday after the filing of the Tender Offer Report on October 30, 2006, the period shall be extended by the number of [illegible] days during which the Philippine Stock Exchange was not conducting trading.

MPC intends to acquire the MPIC Shares and warrants as payment for the tendered and accepted Tender Offer on December 11, 2006. The said MPIC Shares and Warrants shall be made available by the Stock Transfer Agent on and up to the Tendering Shareholders after 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2006 assuming the shares are included on the Cross Date.

Tendering Shareholders who intend to tender certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should send to either the Tender Offer Period Stock Transfer Agent's physical stock certificates. The duly accomplished Application and the following supporting documents:

For Corporate Shareholders	For Individual Shareholders
1. Certified true copies of the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the corporation and latest shareholders' General;	1. One (1) valid identification card containing the name and specimen signature of the shareholder;
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by MPIC stating, both expressly and as to the authority of Board's Resolution authorizing the tender and sale of the Tendered Shares to MPIC, and designating the signatories to the proposal;	2. For corporations acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by MPIC;
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary;	3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder;
4. MPC Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to August 31, 2006 (the effective date of the 1-for-20 reverse stock split) must endorse the same down certificates and additionally, sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate;	4. MPC Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to August 31, 2006 (the effective date of the 1-for-20 reverse stock split) must endorse the same down certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate;
5. MPC Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.	5. MPC Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.

Tendering Scrip Shareholders may submit their applications to any of the following ways:

1. Through post-up, or send (use the Tendering Shareholder should call the MPIC Tender Hotline toll-free telephone no. 1-800-10-888-0888 or to Ayala Securities Inc. The cost of courier services shall be borne by MPIC).
2. Delivery to ATR Holding Securities Inc. ("ATRSEC"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City, Tel. No. 750-8888 to Contact Person: Ms. Melanie R. Concepcion or Mr. Rene R. Dizon.

For the convenience of Scrip Shareholders based in Visayas and Mindanao who opt to submit their applications, the Tendering Shares may be delivered by submitting the foregoing documentary requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of ATRSEC, contact their Account on or after:

ATR Holding Securities, Inc. Cebu Branch	ATR Holding Securities, Inc. Davao Branch
Room 208 Cebu Insular Hotel Condominium Complex Osmeña Blvd.	2nd Floor Ayala Building Rizal cor. Magallanes Streets
Cebu City	Davao City
Telephone No. (032) 231-7363	Telephone No. (082) 221-3882
Contact Person: Ms. Cherry Lou Ong	Contact Person: Miguel Luis M. Aguilar

ATRSEC will submit the tender certificates for validation to Stock Transfer Services Inc. the stock transfer agent of MPC. Validated applications (i.e., with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on the and the authorization) must be rejected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by MPIC. Having Shareholders who wrongly reject validly tendered shares after the Tender Offer Period to correct their deficiencies in their applications. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective applications to allow ATRSEC to reach them immediately in case deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Lodged Shares") should instruct their brokers or depositories to transfer their shares to PCD Nominee for receipt on or before 2:00 p.m. of November 29, 2006. PCNSO shall not be tendered common shares which are not confirmed.

Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by ATRSEC before 2:00 p.m. of November 29, 2006.

Copies of MPIC Form 19-1 may be obtained by Shareholders from ATRSEC at their addresses indicated above.

For inquiries about MPIC or the Tender Offer, please dial the MPIC Tender Hotline at toll-free telephone no. 1-800-10-888-0888

SALINAS

First Davao, then Manila ...

From page B1

The mines are found in supermarket shelves all over Davao del Norte and have recently begun to be "exported" to Manila through the 500 expecting to make the sale into two small-based pandebong eatery that sell ready-to-eat Salaysay-to-bite- like powerbind botsakos.

When Sonita settled with husband Santiago in the latter's native Davao City in 1995, she noticed one small business after another to help her seaman husband support their young family. She had an ace up her sleeves: she knew how to manufacture vanilla, banana, and other food flavors. Besides, to her the Rosario who learned the trade working in her husband's food flavor enterprise in Malabon and poured it on to Sonita.

Mastering was what Sonita tried at first. She ran a rolling store, a public market stall, and a sari-sari store—one after the other. She also supplied a leading store in Davao with volume quantities of the food flavorings she has learned in business. Her sister-in-law, Ester Rosario, to her the Rosario who learned the trade working in her husband's food flavor enterprise in Malabon and poured it on to Sonita.

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Within a year, it was clear that these tiny successes were not getting them anywhere. Sonitay suggested going back to Manila, but Sonita wasn't about to go home "a loser."

Giving birth twice

In 1994, after some years of marriage and trying to have a baby, Sonita finally became pregnant and delivered a baby girl. Motherhood swept her homebound for a while, as Sam, who had just then started his bank to sustaining, minded the store.

As it turned out, it was not only a baby Sonita gave birth to but also another business project.

Boredom and the natural drive to create led Sonita to devote from the nursery to the kitchen, experimenting with food flavor and Pam Everyday, she had a new batch of pans and tutorials. Today, pandan flavored Tiyuyoma, also flavored. The day after, durian flavored, she must have established her entire rack of flavorings.

Sonita's first batches of pans-tutorials found their first market at the canteen of a grade-school nearby. Before long, she was supplying seven school canteens on consignment. She wasn't making money, however, as bases of the tutorials were returned unsold and spoiled. Her luck with pans-tutorials turned when she began supplying big hotels...Mentoring Grand and Grand Astoria hotels. As demand grew, she increased her bargaining position. Today, Sonita deals with those outlets no longer on consignment but on cash basis.

Within a year, Sonita had added eight staff to her line of tutorials to go.

Now, the thought of producing tutorials solution—a mixture of lye and water. This clicked, and she was soon supplying NCC supermarkets and Park 'n' Shop with bottles of the solution.

Diversifying, growing

It was just a matter of time and more. Kitchen experiments before Sonita's developed an all-in-one paste tutorials solution, flour and sugar. All a buyer had to do was to add water and then steam the mixture.

It was also just a matter of time before she introduced other all-in-one powdered mixes—those pans, mga litsera and sapin-sapin.

Today, Kusugin powdered mixes in many variants can be found in all supermarkets around Davao. Those include Gaisano, Victoria Plaza, Park 'n' Shop, NCC, South City, SM Davao, and Bunza supermarkets. In addition she has a network of 35 distributors as far as Gensan and Cagayan de Oro City.

Last year, during a visit to Davao, SM Manila's procurement manager took an interest in Kusugin Tutorials mixes. The deal forged was an exclusive distributorship for SM of the products in the Manila and Luzon areas.

By this time, Sonita had moved production from her small kitchen to a 40-sq.m. area on the second floor of her two-storey home in Buna.

Eyeing more growth

With the successful entry of Kusugin Tutorials into the Manila market, Sonita expects bigger production volume. She needs to buy more people and buy more equipment like heavy-duty mixers and cooking and sealing machines.

As she is averse to sharing decision-making, she values suggestions in smet joint ventures arrangements or look for financiers. What she needs, she says, is a big loan to enable her to upgrade her facilities.

Not that she lacks sources of credit. Pro soon as she and some friends are upon handed she approaches them for small, quick loans. Cooperatives are also a good source of capital, she found out. Finding herself cash-strapped two years ago, she joined a cooperative and liked the experience. Today she is a member of four coops.

Sometimes she gets desperate enough to take her post-dated checks to someone willing to rediscount them.

She got wind of Metro Enterprise Bank's small program for micro entrepreneurs three years ago. She got a P50,000 loan to augment her working capital. She is now on her eighth loan cycle where she was allowed P350,000.

She is unsure she has "graduated" from micro to small scale, and may no longer belong to the target clientele of Metro Enterprise Bank. Perma nendum if a commercial or government bank would be willing to give her the kind of credit she needs, which she estimates to be "in the tens of almost P5 million."

In the meantime, she grabs every chance to promote her products. Last year, she joined the trade fair at the World Trade Center in Manila. This put her in touch with a Pasig-based international agent with whom she has begun negotiations to sell Kusugin Tutorials mixes in Australia, the United States and Guam.

Beyond Davao, Beyond Manila

Sonita's ready-to-go industry and ready-to-cook mixes have undoubtedly seen Davao. And after successfully entering the Metro Manila and Luzon markets, she sees the international market beckoning.

Going by her record, Sonita seems bound for wherever she sets her eyes on.

Which are for "Dreamer's Diary, Risk-takers Part 3: The Moms that Roared" which will be launched in November in commemoration of its publishers' [illegible] anniversary. Solon—UP (1965, 40th and Sandy's 30th, respectively). For inquiries call or email the author at Tel. 926-7055 to 79 cmlopez@up.edu.ph.

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Real pigs for piggy banks among Bontoc Igorots

By KV Espiritu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—FOR the Bontoc Igorots, real pigs are their piggy banks.

Pigs, or baroy in the local dialect, do not literally make them wealthy, but 90 percent of this capital town's population have come out of poverty and gone places because of these animals.

Mt. Province was recently classified by the National Economic and Development Authority and the National Statistical Coordination Board as the poorest province in the Cordillera.

Based on a 2003 survey of the region's consumption patterns and its combined annual income, Mt. Province has displaced Ifugao as the fourth poorest province in the country.

But no one in this province will admit to being poor. Almost every family has a piggery beside its house because the hogs supply them food, and assure them of a comfortable asset and enough cropsite for its farmlands.

Agriculture experts acknowledge that the pig industry that is driving here is one of the remaining towns that speak about the elders' traditions and customs of the Bontocs.

The pig is sacred, and residents, to this date, still sacrifice their charges in "canonizing, a symbolized ritual Bontoc doing for good fortune or to ward off evil spirits.

But the back story that some residents would relate to strangers reveals that owning a native pig brings Mt. Province closer to economic.

Seventy percent of the province's 165,000 residents are into hog raising. Here in urban Bontoc, 50 percent of its 22,500 population own hogs to supply the market and to sustain native rituals.

"Because lands here are also expensive, pigpens become part of the assets distributed to heirs when a family elder dies," said Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Undag.

Undag said the pens' value increases every time Bontoc are informed because Bontoc hogs are also prized for their "special ingredients."

Dr. Rodolfo Magdong, administrative officer of the provincial health office, said Bontoc hogs are fed with camote-like green leafy plants called angu to make "the meat lean and the fat layer also lean."

Angu costs no more than P10 per bundle, and is cooked or mixed with pig feed.

But the dividends are a hundred times more.

Compared to commercial pigs sold in the market, fully grown native Bontoc pigs are priced from P8,000 to P20,000, Carmen Magdong, a hog raiser, said.

Samson, also known as pangayaso or chong, are valuable because these dark pigs are used exclusively for ritual feasts.

But Bontocs also raise white pigs for the regular markets.

Bontoc hogs are priced according to their size, and residents measuring hogs never require weighing scales, Magdong said.

A pigpen found just beside a house usually measures no more than a meter wide. Adjacent to the pen is a plot of angu and kangkong that serve as the pig's food. Each family owns at least a native pig.

In barangay Bontoc Ili, pigpens are built just below the houses.

Pigs are a status symbol. The more pigs a family has, the richer it is regarded because of high property values here, said Undag.

AS EARLY as 6 years old, Fuston Magdong, knows how to feed and take care of their living or pigs in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

INDIGENOUS game of catching the greasy pig or "chopop a baroy" showcase in Lang-ay Festival in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

Creating economic change ...

From page B4

crop, while Mayor Leo de Vera has committed a P100,000 grant for the factory's further expansion.

Why rice crackers

Castillo says the coop officers wanted to embark on a livelihood project that would make use of readily available materials.

"Rice is easily available, and so is squash which is grown in Mangaldan municipality during the season," he says.

But the rice produced in the village is not enough to meet the production need. Besides, the rice produced there is salt while the rice for the cracker must be of the firm variety.

"That we buy rice from the National Food Authority," Castillo says.

The NFA rice has another advantage because it is fortified with iron.

The factory also makes use of rice hull from the rice mill as fuel in cooking the crackers.

During summer when the demand is high, the coop produces rice crackers from eight bags (50 kilos each) of rice. During the rainy season, it needs only three bags of rice.

For every bag of rice, 15 kilos of squash are added.

Producing rice crackers is a tedious process. First, the rice is pounded and mixed with ingredients like squash, camaro flour (for the curly cracker variety) or corn starch (for the flat ones).

The flavorings (hydrol salt, sodium bicarbonate and a small amount of monosodium glutamate) are then added and the mixture is steamed for five minutes.

The mixtures are sun-dried or mechanically dried to remove moisture. Finally they are deep-fried.

Castillo says the coop, through the DOST, is studying how to add turbuggie and saluyot leaves to the rice crackers.

"Our rice crackers are not junk foods," he says.

The coop still has no vehicle to bring its products to the market, thus buyers go to the village to get them. "We plan to buy a vehicle so that we can deliver the products and increase our market," Castillo says.

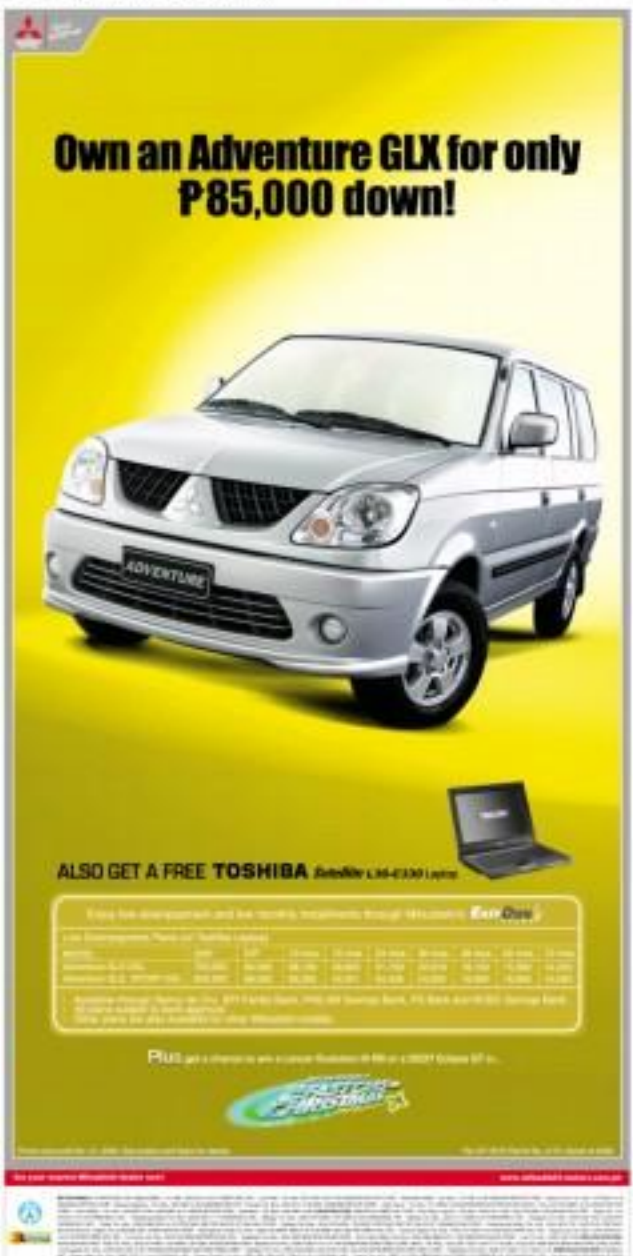
Employment

The women has generated employment for coop members, Josefina says. The women are now busy working in the factory.

"There used to be a lot of unemployed here," Jeanette Calub and Salvador Bautista, coop board members, says. "The factory is really a big help to the village."

Castillo says: "We also want to introduce our village to other regions through the delicious and nutritious rice crackers. And we are thankful that the people appreciate our products."

WORKERS doing their assigned tasks at the cooperative factory in Barangay Tanccapido, Bayombong, Pangasinan.



TWO WORKERS sun-dry semi-processed rice crackers at their cooperative factory in Barangay Tamagudis, Bayambang, Pangasinan.

Sunday BIZ

Creating economic change does not always take huge amounts

Pangasinan village cashes in on rice crackers

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By Yolanda Brodo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN—Tamagudis village offers a rustic, picturesque scene that calms the mind—rolling hills, towering trees, and sun-bathed rice fields ready for harvesting.

And from this pollution-free village are the hardworking people who churn out fortified rice crackers fast invading the market of Bengalenos and nearby provinces.

The rice crackers are produced by the Tamagudis Multi Purpose Cooperative founded in 1993 by a group of residents led by former banker Bernardo Castillo Jr. The cooperative first engaged in money lending, cattle and swine dispersal and rice milling.

The rice cracker production was the cooperative's latest venture. It was just up due to a rollicker grief among the villagers who lost three residents to floody brought about by Typhoon Gading in 1996.

Castillo, now the village chair, narrates that the three residents were factory workers in another town. The factory was closed because of a blackout, and they were going home to the village.

"While they were crossing a bridge in Alvida town, they were swept away by the raging waters of the swollen Agno River.

"We thought then, why waste the villagers working in another town?" Castillo says. "If we have skilled residents, why don't we tap them and put up a factory right in the village so they don't need not go far to work?"

It was based on that and the villagers, Brgy. Comunidad, was working in a rice cracker factory in Manila. He was recruited by the cooperative to train workers to produce the snackfare.

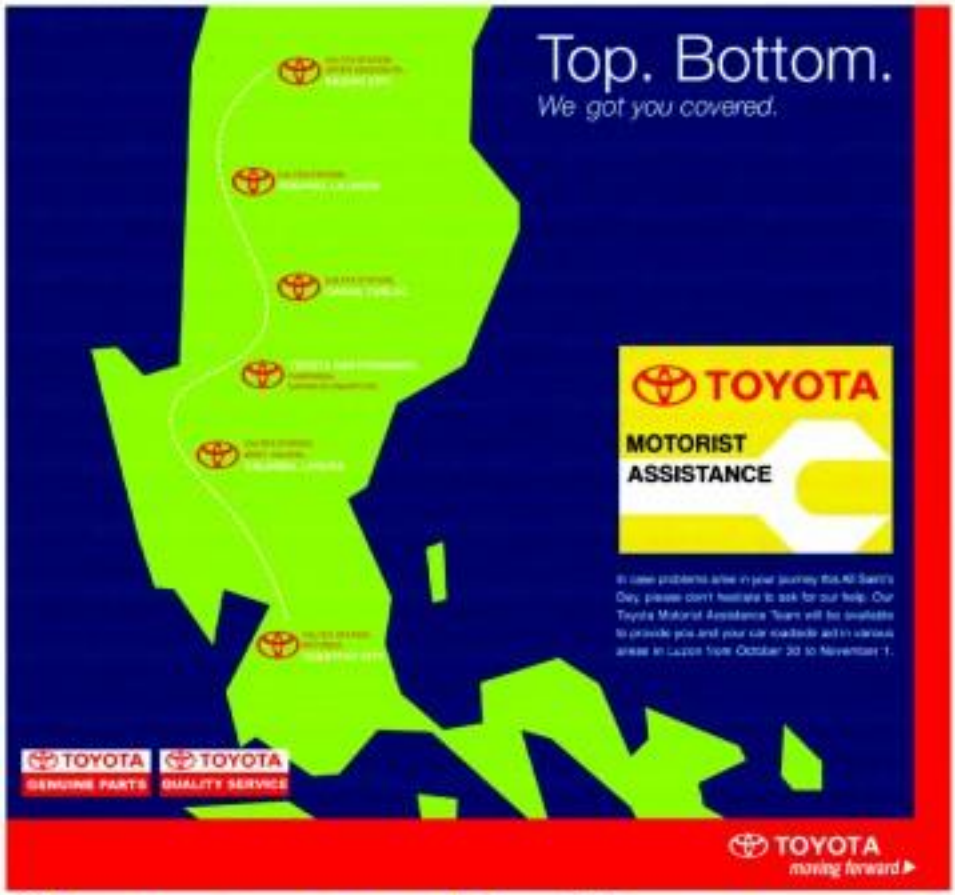
It was in 2002 before the factory finally started with a P99,000 loan from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Another soft loan of P2 (1,000 from the DOLE went to the upgrading of equipment and the factory.

Larry Mac Ibarra, the cooperative's chair, says several government agencies are helping the group to fix rice cracker venture.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Social Welfare and Development have also helped the

BARANGAY chair Bernardo Castillo of Barangay Tamagudis, Bayambang, Pangasinan, is to shows the pre-heating oven they are using in the manufacture of rice crackers.



CALTEX DENSO Nikkiens DUPONT EMICOP INC.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Lilac Chelo Banal-Formoso

SALIVATING and ridiculous costumes of the "LIS Girls" Halloween Party featured at Studio 23

Oh bless you, Halloween

It's probably my most favorite season because I have an excuse to dress up in outrageous costume

HALLOWEEN IS ABSOLUTELY one of my favorite occasions. Obviously, I have a passion for costumes and this ghostly, creepy celebration is a great reason for my friends and I to play dress-up.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

In part of the "LIS Girls' theme" on Studio 23, my theme was cursed-and-a bloodcurdling, movie-setup with horrifying décor prepared by PSD, complete with a tarot-card-reading den, a deliciously haunting buffet by Sir Clinton Restaurant in Mall of Asia and a bloody wine bar hosted by Tonyo Wines.

Creatively designed, frolic invites by unique artists Mac and Norman Cruz of Artworks Ltd. (4900305 or e-mail artworks@hotmail.com) announced the theme of the party. Guests were asked to come as any fictional character and the gales with the best costumes won prizes.

Halloween means having a foreshadow time with close friends all dressed up as hilarious characters. Several came in groups this year, notably The Hometown, The Adams family and even some former "Milenyos" reconnected from. HOOKED gang Tim Yap and Leica Cargo came as image models Vince and Jovito of Penthouse. We had Russian twin sailors, Japanese Imperial Court royalty, a Sky High Prom King and Queen, and even a Hurricane Katrina-forced Bejing.

The LIS Girls themselves were delighted in their Disney Princess costumes. We all played a "Guess Your Skull" game, which ended in a teasing between the visually arresting Princess Ariel Tuazon of Charmie Garcia and the ghastly and nice storytelling of the Princess Jasmine Tuazon of Ayu Villanida. In the end, even the Hanging Beauty Team of Angel Aquino won prizes and giveaways from Nevoh.

In Morticia Adams costume

Halloween season means I can be in costume even for non-costume events. So one of the Metrowear Series fashion shows, I dressed as Morticia Adams. The entire day I wore a black, vacuum-like ensemble by Patrick Ramos Bias for the invitational show of the Batsheva Dance Company of New York so the UCP. It was a stunning, modern ballet interpreted with breathtaking voice sensations. My mother, Bhanie Prieto, asked me to accompany her to get my ordered skin remembered. At forward, we met the artists and they were amazed... with my costume. One Philippine designers are truly world-class!

From there, I headed to the biggest par-

WINNER costumes of "Milenyo" from Lindi Puyat, Angeline Calero, Kevin Pascual and Arnel Barreiro

LEGAL EAGLES Kristin Kenny and Michael Maria Prieto

FASHIONABLE ladies Grace Buja and Bowie Tantoco

CHIC bag designer Bea Valdes, Archie Rodriguez and Mike Toledo

COUTURE House designer Clemente Go, Jaqueline Pua and Patsy Lim

US COUNSELOR Scott Ballard and US Ambassador Peter Buckingham and wife Jill

METRO Family Thelma San Juan, Alyx Honasan and Carlo Tadlor

JAPANESE Imperial air Chito Vijandre, Sea Princess and Nicky Toledo

Oh bless you, Halloween

From page C1

and joint event of Sbe Toronto and Montecito at the Rockwell Tent. In yet another most impressive and generous benefit, Montecito tallied off over a hundred of its newest mobile phone, Blackberry. In its stunningly slim case packed with functionality and features, the Blackberry is one of the most advanced models, with integrated music player, downloaded games and compatible Bluetooth-enabled microheadphone.

'Shu-percalifragilistic'

Not to be outdone, Sbe Toronto gave away an equal number of Rouge Unlimited, its newest cupcotic lipstick. If there were a beauty marketing gene I had to single one. It would be Tina Tinio of Sbe Toronto. In just a couple of years, she has solidly built the resort chain of Zen Japanese beauty line. Because of her outstanding efforts, she is being promoted to the Singapore office. I wish her well and still miss her constant inclination to her product line. Sad.

Guest-holiday has been very supportive in so many of my projects and it was aggressive in its promotions. Aside from being a major sponsor of the Sbe Toronto Montecito IAL event (and my recently celebrated Yehudi), Smart Infinity hosted the Dream FM 105.7 Glam Gothic Halloween Party at The Loft in Northwell.

As we take costume parties seriously, only Tito Pep and I were all decked out in Halloween Glam. I bought fuzzy, giant spiders in Divisoria to transform me into a Black Widow. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to win the prizes worthy of Gaches Sun Miguel's Promiscuella and Dali's Pets Philippines.

Bryann Parry and ABC 5 hosted the multi-activity event with makeup artistry Tin Body Shop and photo sessions by Dali's Play Photography. The remaining talents on the top-rating "Philippine Idol" performed a party hit, accompanied by Authority Band led by Juan Miguel Salvador.

The evening's highlight was the raffle of a beautiful, bejeweled necklace encrusted with coral pearls and hematite gems by Roman Jewels. A lucky lady from Universal McCann brought the piece home after her name was drawn right after the Gothic Glam Fashion Show Multi-layered Anarchic Carousel. brilliantly created by fashion production.

Turning Japanese

Halloween this year seems to be like United Nations Day. One day I was in full Japanese Kimono and, the very next day in a Chinese cheongsam. Hence, Malou, together with Greenbelt Ayala Mall, opened an elegant exhibition of 17th-19th century Japanese paintings and woodblock prints at the Greenbelt 3 Gallery, showing until Nov. 7. I was my stylized Japanese Kimono by young, talented Cebu designer Ronald Ilustre for the opening.

My favorite artistic pursuit friends, Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre, are regular fixtures in all my theme parties and constantly win in the best-costume category. So for them, I make sure to come in full costume glory with as much attention to detail as they prepare for theirs.

Be sure to catch the exquisite exhibit in order to immerse yourself with the artistry of Japanese designers, exquisite craftsmanship and Japanese folkloric action. And drop by the Ayala shop for some early Christmas shopping. You'll find the most unique and beautiful selections of jewelry, homeware and lifestyle gifts.

Fueling feng-shui-tic

The very next day, I joined the opening of the Feng Shui Makati shop of World of Feng Shui, owned by top feng shui consultants Kimberly Aileen Lorenzo as honoring Surendra at The Fort. PPO entertainment with a head bang with Jun Gonzon spreading good luck throughout the store. Fellow BANDI Gloria Diaz was the guest of honor. Mr Bubbles are quite lucky this year as the Dog is our Zodiac Animal.

I can't say Sharlene Lorenzo-wood how to do a Wealth Vase but she also emphasized Wealth Vase is only a third of one's total luck. Getting good deeds is another third, so to enhance your fame, do a lot of events and lots of the cliché Happy Halloween!

E-mail me at cmgr@inquirer.com.ph

SHU Lorenzo beauties Tina Dragon, Tina Tinio, Sea Princess and Motorola Marketing head Mel Lizardo at Beyond Limits, Beyond Wonder

WORLD of Feng Shui owner Marissa Allen, Carol Lardizabal, Mel Kalaw and Gloria Diaz

LION dancers at the auspicious opening of World of Feng Shui at Serendra

DREAM ISLE Glam designers Ronald Ilustre, Annerie Coronel, Randy Ortiz, Jeji Lloren, Dennis Lucero and Vic Barba

ABC 5 and Dream FM family Bobby Barrera, Rally Suarez, Annerie Coronel, Chay Cojuangco, Mariand La Lagdameo, and EJ Linon

CHINESE Raoul Locsin Ingrid and Patrick Go

INQUIRER columnist Maurice Arnaiz and Antoni Mendoza

FAMILIA friends Kirsty Jacinto, Wynn Wynn Ong and Lois Tan Gan

"AMAZING face" couple Jenna and Erwin Lopez

DISNEY Princesses Chessa Garcia, Angel Aquino and Iya Villania

FINALISTS of "Philippine Idol" jammick Jose Miguel Salvador of Authority Band.

FOR FUN! Arts graduate Terania, center, here becomes the clown, the medium for expressing herself as an artist.

These masks ain't made for scarin'

Mercie Terania prefers happy faces that can hang in a home all year round

Text by Lia Consiguardo-Lee, Contributor
Photos by Roger Carpo

IT'S HALLOWEEN, THE SEASON for masks.

The thought about Terania can create the perfect mood you want, the world many rather skip the vampires and Satanic-inspired Halloween fests.

"The scary masks give me negative feelings," she says. "I prefer the more funny, fantastic masks, ones that make people happy. Masks at home fit your living and are always a delight somehow."

Terania, a Fine Arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, started a career in advertising, then went into the business of producing clowns for parties.

"I started it as a hobby" she says. "As a young girl, I was fascinated with paper dolls. I saw them as faces in the faces. I got depressed when I couldn't express the face I liked. From dolls, my fascination graduated to masks and clowns."

Masks have since become my canvas, my favorite medium of expression as an artist. Through masks, I can create my world the colors and designs I want."

Terania's mask-making career began at the Department of Trade and Industry's craft in Bazar program, where she met Cookie Chua-Lim Pilapil, who encouraged her to develop her masks as a commercial product line and encouraged her to participate in trade exhibitions.

She was also encouraged by the support she got from buyers and exporters who frequented trade exhibits.

Designing woman

Beyond the side of her hobby, Terania found her self designing for other companies as well. She designed costumes for the Philippine Madrigal Singers and Tanghalang Ateneo, and Tanghalang Pilipino.

Her masters brought her results to riches. A gift has inspired one company to commission her to design a line of Halloween masks called Nightmarkets, high-end, high-class designs that appealed to the European market.

Locally, Terania quickly cultivated a loyal following among mall audiences.

"My friends, being landmarks, are one of a kind. No two masks look exactly the same. They are actually my way to make people happy, to celebrate moments, and create a sense of artistry in the neighborhood. But every mask longs indoors, we take care in assembling the masks and we take things for granted.

"The details can make or remake a good mask. You just express you in the mask. One has to know the artist's history in order to have more personal meaning to the object being."

Terania's mask-making skills and art have been years in the making. Her masks have been used to decorate homes and homes and even as artistic display mementos of shopping malls.

Those who is overcoming new making more out the masks, parties and even for fiesta, now commemorative a logical and natural extension of the work of a mask-maker.

"Terania finds fulfillment in her work. "My designs have been an outlet," she proudly says. "I feel self-fulfillment in creating masks. My creations give me priceless joy."

Sailing on the Sea of Galilee

ON OCTOBER 11, WE DRIVE FROM THE Golan Heights [illegible] to Tiberias to the Sea of Galilee where the time of us from the Philippines, accompanied by our tour guide Jacob, took a boat.

The captain of the boat had a Philippine flag and the mood it was set using the National Anthem and thoughts of home.

Rev. Eric Malbert read Matthew 14:26-33 where Jesus walk [illegible] water to leave the boat and walk on water. Peter obeyed but, getting scared when the mind blew harder, he started to sink. He cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me." Jesus reached out and saved him.

We thanked God for making it possible for us to be there. The Sea of Galilee is about eight miles wide and 13 miles long. In Hebrew means "Kinneret," as the mood for harp, the shape of the sea.

A boat was discovered in the exact at the sea's edge. It is now on exhibit at the Ellitza Museum.

Capernaum

Located near the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum was the center of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. He lived there for a while, healing the sick, preaching and performing miracles.

We saw Peter's house where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law who had a fever. A Roman Catholic church of St. Peter was built on top of the ruins. The synagogue where Jesus preached has also been preserved.

Later, we visited the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha, where a Byzantine church was discovered in 1932 and rebuilt in 1982. Mosaics were found, including three containing numbers and some birds plus a basket of loaves and two fishes.

Five Filipino nuns are assigned here. One of them, Sister Isadora, gave us cookies.

The church and the land belong to the Catholic Association of the Holy Land with the archbishop of Cologne as president. Hermelindo, the monks of the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem are entrusted with its care. They also take care of a home for the handicapped and a camp for religious groups.

Angel Pfisterer, manager of tourism and incoming traffic development of El Al Israel Airlines, said 9,000 people came for the feast of Tabernacles. Now that the war is over, he expects the number of visitors to increase further.

Cards

If you are looking for unique and not run-of-the-mill Christmas and gift cards, tags, letter paper and other stationery items, try the Capernaum Center. You will also be helping a worthy project for disabled children. Executive director is Mariter Macaspad.

Capernaum Center, [illegible] by St. Joseph of Cupertino, is an organization that helps facilitate the acceptance and recovery of special young people into the mainstream of society.

Students are taught to make paper using organic grass and other natural resources. The skilfully handcrafted paper is sent to a printer to be made into cards, with designs by well-known artists. The cards are sold at the center's shop.

For the coming holiday season, the artists is unveiling a new array of designs. Look for the flower art-work of sr'ers painter Ellis Laguna and her Christmas Madonna cards.

Capernaum Center is at Mangyan Road, La Vista Subdivision, Batasan-Antipolo, QC. Sight beside Miriam College; tel. 9206151. Bernadette Angala is in charge of the paper shop.

Novena

The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls

Milestones

SANTOS DEBUT

Rose L. Santos celebrated her 18th birthday recently at El Bar of Isha Shangri-La Hotel. Clothes were by Bibi Santiago.

DONGALLO DEBUT

Victoria Samson, the "Samson" Republic, daughter of Mr. Vincente Dongallo, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Crowne Plaza Ortigas Main Bar. She is a freshman nursing student at the College of the Holy Spirit. Her gown was by Edward Tang.

TUMPALAN DEBUT

Anna Francesca T. Tumpalan, daughter of Perdie and Jackie Tumpalan, celebrated her debut recently at The Loft at Rockwell, Eastwood. Cos[illegible]

Purely Personal

Josephine Barcena

EPPOBI, a worldwide apostolate of the Mother Foundation, is starting a nine-day novena for the Holy Souls at 9:45 a.m., Nov. 2, at the Antipolo Cathedral. A Holy Mass will be offered by Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

An Advent Recollection for members and anyone interested will be held 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 11, at the Nicanor Hall of the Spirit of Love Catholic Community in the Manila Handling Bank on Quezon Avenue corner Kalayaan. Call 519-8994 or 521-1127. Registration fee is P100.

Congregacion is 27

The Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus turns 27 today. The organization was formed in 1979. A Thanksgiving Mass will be held 6 p.m. at the Sto. Niño Chapel in the Village Compound, E. Rodriguez Sr., Quezon City.

Nine officers and two new members will be inducted: Ruby Miranda, president; Chito Fagan, vice president; Jane Bell, secretary; Mel Chiongbi, treasurer; Jessel members Irene de Leon, Rhoda Fuentila, Gremian Maldonado and Nicki Ortiz.

Chair is Jing Chua, while Ros Bernabe is founding chair.

HEMC Cunha and Cruz Dinz with the owner of the Holy Land Sailing Ltd.

The year's new members are Albert Zabala and Abraham Domingo de Castro.

Feast

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion is holding a Triduum of Masses to mark the feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Nov. 27-29, 12:45 a.m., at the Parroquia ng Maytalo Chapel, and 6 p.m. at College de San Agustin Chapel, Intramuros Village, Makati.

The Pius Holy Communion Mass for 500 public school children will be at 1:45 p.m., Dec. 2, at the Manila.

Celebrated with Bishop Teodoro Bacani as celebrant.

Novenas mayor this year at Cantin Basilica, Hermana Mayo is at 1:45 p.m. at the Cathedral followed by the Marian procession at 4 p.m. Mass celebrant is Tagaytayan Archbishop Bernardo Talamayan.

The second image of Virgen de los Remedios, patroness of Pampanga, will join the procession for the first time.

Milestones

Gown draws the curious to a wedding

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and recent photograph along with a photo of the couple and a clarical of the bridal gown, if any, to the Features, PO Box 2555 Makati Central Post Office 1261 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be published depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

VELASQUEZ-PEREZ

Jayson Velasquez, son of Mr. Benjie and Lorinda Velasquez, exchanged vows recently with Jocelyn Perez, daughter of Jose and Remedios Perez Jr. at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church, Kalibo Aklan. Reception was held in La Mesa Garden, Kalibo, Aklan.

LIM-TANCO

Billy Sy Lim Jr., son of Billy and Vicky Uson Sy Lim, will exchange vows with Jeannie Dator Tanco, daughter of Emilio (†) and Mary Dator, today at San Sebastian Church.

The bride will wear a white duchess gown by LorenzoOCo.

ABUE-DE LEON

Alexander Abue, son of Alberto and Merida Bilard Abue, and Jocelyn Flor de Leon, daughter of Josefina Mafel vda. de Leon, will exchange vows on Dec. 3 at the Church of Our Lady of the Abandoned in Marikina City. Reception will follow at the Rajmon Hotel in Mandaluyong Square. The bride will wear a gown by Marlene Mercado of Mckenzie wear.

The bride entered the church alone, joining her parents mid-way to the altar where Ben waited with his best man, Marvelous Ugarte. Amanda's bridal bouquet was a cascade of tan orchids arranged by her mother.

Rev. Fr. Antonio Nuñez concelebrated the nuptial mass with Rev. Fr. Ernesto Jerez, SJ, and Msgr. Adolfino Salazar.

Principal sponsors were Leo Abaño and his wife Annabelle (née Daniels); Eddie Abaño and his wife Valeria Cuevadoog (the former partners, Eduardo Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen (née Ogilvie); Ignatius Abaño and his sister, Rebecca Abaño de Alonzo; David Lee and Bee's aunt, Carolina Abaño de Dee who came from Made to be wedding.

Amanda's cousin, Cacay Moran, was maid of honor. Also in the wedding entourage were bridesmaids Anna Theresa, Cynthia Goyanko and Ms. Cristina Villareal, groomsmen John Dickson, Nicolas Paredes and Antonio Abaño; ring-bearer Ramon Abaño; and flower girls Jasmine Arnilla, Clara Eliaida, Jane Abaño and Adriana Abaño.

Uncle Dante was locked during the mass. In the offertory procession were Dwight Lo and Silvia Lido, bearing the candles; Raoul Abaño and Daisy Li, the bread and wine; Edris and Rovina Inda Antonio Abaño, the chalice and ciborium.

Ensemble music was rendered by the Pinoy Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Rolando del Rosario. Governor and cabinet officers were in profusion all over the church's altar, aisle and front columns, all to the credit of Romeo Inda.

Reception followed at the Atlantic ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel where more than 600 guests milled and ambled at the dinner by Trenta Restaurant, Pinky Chang and Jaime Chua.

Surrounding hallways were transformed into an exotic garden of tan blooms. Inside, there were civilians with colorful flowers, making the room look like a May Day fete in Carmelite.

Various buffet tables were laden with specialties, like jamon Iberico specially flown in from Spain, and the famous "Rosales" made from a recipe in Inda family archives. Cebu's famous lechon was also served.

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AMANDA Lapu and Ben Abaño

Abaño's treasurer chest of cousins.

Toasts were made by the fathers of the bride and groom, for the rest of the night, it was dancing to the beat of Mon Villanueva and his Renaissance Band. Never mind if they did smooth out tandems.

Lozada-Hernandez

Also held at the Redemptorist parish on a recent afternoon was the wedding of Haidee Lozada, daughter of Antonio Jorge and Diane Gabe Gabriano Lozada, to Luis Marcos Hernandez whose family is based in California. His father, Alfred Louis Hernandez, is of Mexican/Danish descent, while his mother, Inola Mirtha Empenario, is Peruvian.

Main celebrant at the nuptial Mass was Rev Fr. Lutze Pantalon, SVD. Sponsors were Dr. Robin Lee with Dr. Carmencita Senseng; Dr. Eddy Bahar and Rosario Lozada; Eduardo and Theresa Gonzalez; Ludwig and Perla Caballes; honorary consul of the Netherlands to Cebu, Rodney Abaño, and his wife Ma. Celestina (née Cabarrus); honorary consul of Sweden, Jose Sala and his wife Rosario (née Montenegro).

Ana Maria Abaño was maid of honor while best man was Eric Bonnet, who came for the purpose from San Francisco.

In the wedding entourage were brides maids Cindy Ong, Barbiyan Caballes, Karla Dayondon, Adelaida and ROSES Ramirez, groomsmen Lee Lozada (the bride's brother), Judd Hemsted, Jaime Inda and Angel Chiong; junior bridesmaid Liesel Guinsaton; ring and coin bearer Ayrton Sandia, and flower girl Selena Silvan.

Attending to the bridal couple during the rites were Ivin Pages and Stein Ann Barrozo, candle sponsors Robert Abaño and Dr. Elsie Gomez, veil sponsors Randy Pages and Margaux Ouano, cord sponsors.

Even if it was still daylight when the wedding ceremony was over, and the reception at the Casino Español was scheduled for the evening, almost everyone proceeded to the casino when, at the set-conditioned Salon Madrid, the photographer set up a studio for souvenir photos.

While cameras clicked, everyone munched, lassoed to a Latin combo, sipped champagne, and nibbled on finger food. Before they knew it, it was 7 p.m., time for the reception.

A red carpet led to Salon de Estrella, transformed into Cinderella's room of some legendary wonderful moments by Tessie and Pinky.

The management of Casino Español was recognized for the impeccable service, delicious food, attentive waiters.

UnionBank Takes the Lead With PLDT's Hosted OnCall Solution

It's been a great year so far for UnionBank. The 24 year-old pioneering establishment has a host of notable firsts under its belt—from online banking in the Philippines, first electronic savings account, to acquisition last June of the International Exchange Bank, now is as the seventh-largest bank in the country with combined assets of 160 billion pesos and 101 branches. Dizzyingly among other financial institutions in the Philippines, UnionBank has held its own in the big leagues.

UnionBank decided to acquire the PLDT Hosted OnCall solution for its newest call center to accommodate a growing customer base. In the dizzying throes of the BPO phenomenon, hosted business solutions are now getting marketed to industry players, with many set on making the switch. Immediate benefits include quicker return on investments (ROI) and access to

> *"We preferred dealing with number 1 and therefore we chose PLDT."*

above the upgrades in the system; you will always be part of the latest in the industry with no extra cost."

UnionBank is happily reaping the benefits of a hosted customer relations management (CRM) solution. "Productivity and efficiency did improve," Sulayman says. "We are able to check the agent's performance in real time and because the call volume for the coming months' the solution's edges ACT upgrades as crucial enablers in the financial and customer service industries. As technology constantly changes, we at UnionBank ensure our customers are provided the utmost convenience when transacting with the bank, thus the upgrade to PLDT's Hosted OnCall solution. Enabling businesses in the Philippines with capabilities with corporations with extensible tool the country to become a significant player in the global market."

In telecommunications, you are either number 1 or number 2," said Victor D. Valdepeñas, President of Union Bank. "We preferred dealing with number 1 and therefore we chose PLDT."

"We are delighted that UnionBank, a leader in the banking industry, is going true to form," said Eric B. Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group. They are taking a timely lead in realizing the productivity and efficiency benefits of wire transmissions in ICT. As always, PLDT will be a strong enabling partner to business and move towards having similar competitive enterprises make the same evaluation."

"As ever, we are proud to partner with leaders in their industries like UnionBank who recognize the key advantages in ICT," said Napoleon L. Nazareno, PLDT and SMART President and CEO. "By further enabling their call centers with enhanced PLDT OnCall features, they have demonstrated their confidence and trust in us and we will keep working hard to always be deserving of that honor."

Standing, L-R: SMART Head of Corporate Business Group Joy Lagdameo, PLDT Voice Services Head, Group Temple, PLDT Relationship Manager, Michelle Crescentia Union Bank EVP for Corporate Banking Group Lucio Gan, Union Bank EVP for Retail Product Banking, Mitz Pantoja, and Union Bank EVP for Corporate Product Banking, Patricia Pujalte

Seated L-R: PLDT Business Head for Luzon Alejandro, PLDT EVP Oscar Enriquez, PLDT SVP and Head of CRM, Eric Alberto, PLDT and SMART President and CEO Napoleon Nazareno, Union Bank President and CEO, Victor Valdepeñas, Union Bank EVP and Channel Management Center Head, Teodoro Pangalinan, Union Bank EVP General Manager Card Center, Manuel Santiago, and Union Bank AVP Contact Center Head, Dinah Salipsod.

Union Bank agents at action-packed PLDT's Hosted OnCall Solution.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Log on, fly free and enjoy the islands

Ace Durano's team is tapping technology to entice a new generation of Filipino-Americans to favor RP as a destination

WARM WELCOME TO FIRST BATCH OF "FREE-FLIGHT" WINNERS FROM USA

Tourism officials headed by Undersecretary Edwardo Jarque Jr. recently welcomed the first batch of winners of "The Great Philippines Free-Flight Giveaway" contest raffle promo.

The winners — 23 US-based Filipinos and foreigners — were greeted with a lei and rondalla-serenade upon arrival. The winners were also feted to breakfast at a five-star hotel.

Their names were picked via the promo's first online draw at the annual Pistahan Filipino celebration in San Francisco, California in June.

Among the first batch were Ma. Theresa Gonzalez (Toronto) and Victoria Alvarez (Washington), Lubna Mutti and Sonia Trujillano (Arizona), Mady Hernandez (Illinois). Winners from California are Angelito Sandoval, Vilma Bermudez, Emelita Dimaano, Clarissa Enriquez, Edmundo Mangubat, Mellie Lopez Hernandez, Nestor Zuniga and Federico Mabeza.

Sole non-winner, Mady Hernandez, "The last time I came out to the Philippines was for a family emergency. This time I'll be on vacation exploring parts of my native country that I've never been."

THERE THEY ARE ON THE Sunday afternoon of a three-day weekend, milling about the gates of a Las Vegas auditorium. To the American media, they are "Filipino-Americans," one of the biggest hyphenated communities in the United States. To the Philippine governments, media and businesses, they are "Global Filipinos," a market ripe for road shows and all sorts of selling schemes. But, among themselves, they refer to one another as "Pinoy," plain and simple.

Instead of cussing the lines, whining about the week's work or dining somewhere that is naturally uncomfortable and unimaginable on any American weekend, these Pinoys are waiting to be let in into the exciting experience of being in the audience of a popular Filipino TV variety show.

There are elderly couples for whom lines and congress waves of the old homeland are etched permanently. There are families who have driven from Vegas from cities near and far in vans newly purchased with their hefty tax refunds. There are folks in wheelchairs for whom the event qualifies as extreme sport — it is two hot and dry a day really to be sitting out in the sun, and the guards are not particularly disabled-friendly.

And then there are the non-Filipinos married to this mob of raucous and homesick immigrants, a United Nations of spouses who have been dragged into the arena for the thrill of donating money-winning septic, watching their new discover their culture and personal or some other adventure televised Pinoy-style.

The show is "Wowowow" and it is being staged and taped at the Thomas & Mack auditorium of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, for broadcast by ABS-CBN the following Saturday in the Philippines and Sunday in the US through The Filipino Channel. We lost that Charo Santos-Concio, one of the network's top executives, is sitting front row with the top sponsors to make sure everything goes well for the Vegas edition.

Free tickets

Since the television cameras are rolling on all 7 p.m., the early birds have plenty of time to register with the Department of Tourism either online using the computers inside or by filling out forms. To encourage online registration, the DOT has been giving free round-trip tickets to the Philippines (worth).

Why the need for free tickets? Aren't Pinoys in First World America living it up and can very well afford to book a trip to the republic of their roots?

"Half of the half-a-million tourists a year we get from the US and Canada are half-

WINNERS administer the free flight program awarding 250 roundtrip tickets to Philippine destinations to residents and citizens of Canada and the USA whose names were drawn after they registered online via the DOT website.

THE NIGHT fans of Pinays in America who came to watch the Filipina variety show "Wowowow" hosted by Willie Revillame (shown here doing a caped Elvis Presley impersonation).

Log on, fly free and enjoy the islands

From page D1

Anyway, yet, that's only 200,000 out of 3.2 million Filipinos who live in that part of the world. That's only one-tenth," notes Ms. Carmen Javela-Apa, head of the DOT's Tours Study division.

That now needs to be some packrat rewards back and forth between their new country and the old hometown with no need for attempting or promos from tourism agencies.

But what about the other nine-tenths? Clearly it is a big market that can be enticed by a whole slew of vacation episodes designed to cater to Pinoy immigrants. After all, viral messaging, Pinoy cable TV channels, e-mail and websites have enabled Filipino migrants not only to maintain relationships with folks back home that are closer than ever but also to acquaint them with what the Philippines has to offer by way of scenic, cultural and leisure experiences. If anything, these resources should fuel a longing to make overseas Filipinos visit the homeland.

Only takes one

But it seems the younger generation of Filipino-Americans, born in the USA and with only their parents' memories to connect them to their ancestral country, would rather travel to new locations other than the Philippines.

DOT consultant Robert "Stan" Ortosio fervently believes that one visit to the Philippines is all it will take to get them hooked and keep them coming back. "One trip to Boracay should do it," he says with confidence. Indeed, survey results bear him out. According to Javela-Apa, the surveys built into the DOT website have shown that Boracay is the No. 1 destination for first-timers.

The DOT, however, decides to dangle more than just the beautiful beaches of Boracay to reel in all generations of Pinoys in the Northern Hemisphere and woo them into what the travel industry calls "home venture." In fact it has launched a euro pair "grand tourism campaign" aimed at increasing the number of tourist arrivals from the US and Canada.

The first part of "The Philippines: Explore, Experience, Retreat" (Peer) program, billed as "Free Flight," was launched in San Francisco, California, in June, in cooperation with Philippine Airlines. To date the DOT has given away 200 round-trip tickets to the Philippines, the last 100 of which are to be awarded just before the "Wowowow" show in Vegas.

With its specific focus on second-generation Filipinos in America whose affairs are more Internet-based, part two of the campaign, nicknamed "Out of the Box," is designed to draw more attention to the Department of Tourism website, which is in the process of adding a booking engine for booking and confirming travel arrangements online to reduce a worldwide web of Filipinos to come home.

TEAM North America leader Jocelyn Javela-Apa (left) with "Free-Flight" winners at the "Wowowow" give-them raffle.

For everyone

The promo, however, is open to all permanent residents and passport holders of the US and Canada who travel to AP between November 2006 to October 2007. All they have to do is log on to www.experiencephilippines.ph and input their final flight details to qualify for the monthly electronic raffle draw. Already the DOT website has generated some five million hits, and 70,000 registered travelers.

The prizes that are being raffled off, says Javela-Apa, are "typical of modern Philippines" and are "commensurate to whatever the winners nominate." Consisting of real property, home appliances, sports club membership, pension and remittance packages, eye treatment, and all kinds of domestic tour packages, the prizes have been pledged by generous sponsors like the Ilocos Gen Group of hotels and real estate property, Philippine Airlines, Globe, Philippine National Bank, Arts, Mango Tours, Abreeza and American Eye Center.

Besides the monthly draw, there will be an annual draw in November where the grand prize is a condominium unit in the St. Francis Square.

On the average, according to Javela-Apa, holidaymakers may be 11 days, but they stay with relatives most of the time. They therefore do not spend as much as regular tourists do on hotel, food, shopping, tours, and other travel products and services.

"Our challenge is to make them go around and spend their tourist dollars," adds Javela-Apa whose 30-member team North America, along with consultant Tomas B. Lopez, is the very arm that is tasked to reach out to the members of this diaspora. Tourism Secretary Ace Durano created the team to provide support for all Philippine tourism attaches in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Their even more important challenge, however, is to give the new generations of Pinoys in America the experiences that will gain them an appreciation of the landscape, the culture and the past that their elders have left behind.

Drawing the young

But true of the Peer program will hopefully address this need. If these young Filipino-Americans book a trip to the Philippines between now and November 2007, they can qualify for tour packages through the online raffle promo. Among the choices are a heritage package (one of the two instances and the ancient burial caves with hanging coffins in Sagada-Bagiuio), an adventure package (the underground river, a Jurassic World Hideaway site, in Palawan), a culinary package (Mayonnaise in Bicol, Vigan empanada and longaniza in Pampanga and Bulacan), or a dive package (the marine sanctuary and underwater gardens in Puerto Galera), among others.

Last but not least, there is a beach package (one of Boracay which does not need more than the promise of lazing around a beach with jewelry-white sand and a sun-marking sunset.

Of course, if Boracay is not enough attraction, the DOT can always throw in tickets to "Wowowow."

Are you or someone you know in any of the photos on this page? E-mail the author at alphonsus@inquirer.com.ph.

TOURISM consultant Ram Antonio

FILIPINOS go online to register with the Department of Tourism's Its website www.experiencephilippines.ph.

Wife's family obligations keep her from having children

DEAR EMILY,

I'm an OFW somewhere in the Middle East, and so is my wife. We have been married two years. I'm getting old but my wife is only in her early 30s.

My problem is, I really want to have kids but she doesn't because, as the eldest, she is the designated breadwinner in her family. We haven't made plans because of her huge obligations to them.

I can't wait any longer for her to finish this obligation. I'm much older than her and I feel depressed when I see my friends and my siblings carrying their young. And I don't think we will be able to support two families.

I know a lot of people who can support two families but, given her parents' demand on her, I could never give my kid a good future. I want my kid to have everything I didn't have when I was young.

The point is I really would like to start my own and not to marry at once her family. Discussing this has become a problem for us. She feels her first obligation is her family, not me.

I'm pretty tired of this situation. I love her but she loves her family more than she loves me. And I'm thinking of finding someone who can give me what I want, but I really love her.

OLD OFW

How old is old? And what is old to you? Chronologically? In spirit? Physically? If you're in your 30s now and already feel "old," then you're really too old to start a family.

Can you imagine yourself — literally nursing after your kids, 45 not being able to stop working even when you have to — having to bankrupt your most valuable asset to secure a good future for them? Age would really take a huge toll on you. But, if you had to work and young, the numbers adding up as you now are a non factor.

Did she resign as a position to have children with you? Was that part of your marital plans? Possibly your society now is not only your wife and wanting a child. It is more her financial obligation to her family that is bugging you. Did she hide her huge burden during your courtship or is it you who wants to ignore or give up on it now?

How did you react someone to young anyway? Didn't you realize she'd need support to the a trophy wife? If your young wife loves her family more than she loves you, you have a problem here. Too bad marriage cannot be switched off when the going gets tough!

Try talking to her about your dilemma. Assure Hang's bound to be resolved — good or bad for you. If you truly love her as you declare, accept her as, warts and all. She might appreciate your patience and gentleness and, in the long run, bear you a child finally.

Good things come to those who wait, they say. But if the continues to bug you and makes your existence intolerable, then just ask yourself if it's all worth it. Life is too short to be miserable.

E-mail the author at emilyo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Lives in BS BUILD conduct the program "Kalbaryo Pigtasio," 7:35-8:05 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzBB 594 AM.

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcelo

Rides are lessons in past and future

STAR CITY HAS THREE NEW ATTRACTIONS for the holiday season designed to delight and get kids more interested in history.

The new attractions feature spectacular renditions of some of the world's most unbelievable moments in time.

Star City offers daily a mix of shopping, food, rides and attractions, from 1 p.m. on weekdays and from 6 p.m. on weekends.

In the Time Tunnel, visitors are transported through a exciting roller coaster of past and history again. The Time Tunnel features a stunning audio-visual presentation on humankind's history in roughly five minutes.

The Dungeon offers a life-like recreation of some of history's most gruesome events. People will experience the spine-tingling horror of torture, beheading, plague and murder in Europe. Every hottest faces actually happened in real life.

At the Ice Palace, the mythical world of ancient Greece comes alive with scenes taken from the legend of Hercules, captured in large-than-life ice sculptures handcrafted by some of today's best Filipino artisans.

Now on its 15th year, Star City features convenient location, affordable pricing and ever-changing line-up. It had the country's first double-deck carousel, the first loop coaster and the first flume ride, among others.

In latest acquisition, the first and only Tsunami ride in the country, is one of only four in the world. Also known as the 'reef' fences, the Tsunami Ride is a gondola the height of a five-story building and is capable of swinging upwards, downward and sideways.

At the Mini and Star Theaters, Circus de Ballet presents its unique "ballet meets the big Top" presentation "Princess of the Moon" and "Shooting Angkel," combining the world-class dancing of Ballet Manila Girl by prima ballerina Lea Ponce-Elizalde and some of the country's finest circus performers.

Star City—whose rides can cool 33 rides and attractions, nine theaters, 148 retail outlets, 100 food chalets and 60 games.

Entrance fee is P50 adults a Ride-All-Pass. Can pop tag costs P1.99. Star City is at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

GIANT aqua-blue fairy wings with glittery crowns and swirling designs

Spooktacularly dressed for Halloween

IT'S HALLOWEEN! PARTY TIME. KIDS CAN make sure they are suitably dressed by visiting Toy Kingdom for spooktacular costumes.

Toy Kingdom has an amazing assortment of hats—fun and leathery, creepy and comely, scary but sassy.

Boys can dress as swashbuckling pirates or dashing superheroes, while little girls can don magical fairy wings.

Join the Halloween party at Toy Kingdom stores at SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM City Baguio, SM Southmall, V Mall, the Mall of Asia, as well as the TK store at The Podium.

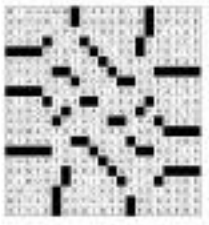
In the provinces' areas, Halloween costumes are available at Toy Kingdom stores at SM City Pampanga, SM City Clark, SM City Lucena, SM City Marilao, SM City Bacolod, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Bacoor, and SM City Batangas in Lucena, as well as the SM Malls in the Visayas-Mindanao area.

SA BAWAT PATAK NG TIWALA

Sa isa nagmamalasakit sa kanilang mga gumagalaw sa iyong pamilya. Ang kanilang kaligtasan at ganyakan sa iyong sigan. Buwa ang tatakahan nila. Sa ya nila nagtitiwala. Kaya para sa 'yo, narding namin ang Wilkins Distilled Drinking Water – malinis at ligtas para sa buong pamilya. Dagdag pa nito ang halos hatidalayang inuming pampalakas at pampalusog. Sa Coca-Cola Company, may inuming aasagot sa iyong bawat pangangailangan. Para ma-enjoy mo ang bawat patak ng buhay.

The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Sunday LIFESTYLE

at HOME

Pinoy furniture reaches its *crystal age*

Collaborating with Swarovski, Carlo Tanseco adds more glitter to his furniture designs

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Ryan Lim

IN THE HANDS OF A LESS disciplined artist, "Swarovski-crystalled" furniture would probably have been glittery but gaudy, a tasteless attempt at creating a look of luxury and opulence.

Swarovski obviously knew that. Constantly searching for ways to showcase the versatility of its products, the Austria-based company had "lent" its crystals only to people it knew would project, even enhance, the image it wanted for its products, pieces that are just a little braver in color than real gems.

Quite fortuitously, Carlo Tanseco was in a constant search...for new materials, for innovations, for new twists he could introduce to his already celebrated furniture and home accessories designs.

After almost a year of casual exchanges, a collaborative project between the merchant—the architect-turned furniture-designer and Swarovski—finally crystallized, just intended.

The resulting items made their debut during the recent October edition of the twice-a-year Manila Fashion Week (Furnishings and apparel Mannikin meet his beast).

Of the partnership that was formally forged only some three months ago, the thirtysomething Tanseco said: "I wanted to introduce something different (to both) old and new designs. I always try something different and loving the crystals was having value added to traditional products."

Crossing

He said he was thinking of moving into a totally different line of furniture and home accessories and was looking for new materials when he crossed paths with the Swarovski people, who were thinking of having Filipino designers incorporate their crystals into their work.

PHOTO E2

SAUCER woes

ANGELIC is the designer on his winged leaves chair in gold with leaves laminates at the back.

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

Give triple happiness with triple spending power.

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ALL THAT GLITTERS. Sarting l—Graphite chair, Bing Nimmo; Frost Cocktail vessels (on pedestal), Bby Aspin; carnival table, Bby chair, Fika chair

Pinoy furniture reaches its *crystal age*

PEPPERCORN baskets (left) and fragmented vases (right)

THE WINGED Curve chair is here is strong enough to hold

From page B1

But getting the project off the ground took a while "because we wanted to launch it properly. It couldn't be launched in a small way."

Manila FAME, launching just be many award-winning designs, was the clear and natural choice for the unveiling of the "freelancers" exhibit that also included screens and accessories, come signaling a new direction for the designer, whose interesting reworking of familiar pieces and motifs in talk.

Olivier Lamas, vice president operations for North and Southeast Asia Pacific, said: "Our collaboration with Carla Tanseco for the Evolution Exhibit at Manila FAME is our first approach to the interior segment in the Philippines. OC is the first major project of Swarovski in Asia."

Before working with the Filipino designer, Swarovski had collaborated with interior design professionals and students in Europe and the United Kingdom on the use of crystals for furniture and home accessories and accents.

Show pieces

Tanseco assures prospective customers that, while the addition of Swarovski crystals raises the prices a bit, they can keep the cozy within their budgets by how much glitter they want. The pieces he prepared for the Manila FAME, the designer said, were obviously for show.

"They were designed to wow" was how he put it.

And, indeed, they several—not in a screaming, hysterical way but in hushed, awed tones. Though Tanseco obviously had some blunder in the use of Swarovski pieces, his wow pieces were hand-rubbed not because of their generous use of crystals but by the careful blending of materials.

Whether in the decorative baskets, the wooden dividers or metal flower chair, the crystals were added in such a way that they were almost like natural parts of the main materials used.

Other designers might have made the mistake of making the crystals call attention to themselves, ruining the impact of the total design, but in Tanseco's deft and sensitive hands, the Swarovski pieces blended seamlessly, allowing each piece to be admired as a whole, glitters included.

He might have been tempted to go over the top but his artistry and innate discipline ensured that the pieces were not ostentatious and that they remained within the boundaries of good taste. The pieces were subtly elegant, as pleasing in the eye as they were comfortable and functional.

Tanseco's smaller designs, specifically for furniture, were always influenced by four Fs—form, function, familiarity and frivolity. Less anyone misunderstands, frivolity, to Tanseco (and, might refer to a spirit of fun, a little bit of playfulness.

The Filipino designer is enticed by design projects. He said Filipinos kept ahead of the competition by continuously innovating, using materials available only in the country or materials not found anywhere else.

Tanseco says he draws inspiration from nature. "If you look at it [nature], there's a science to it, there's a design, and contrasts."

The gift

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

Organizer: What's this?
Giver: It was a gift.
O: Do you like it?
G: It was given by a friend.
O: Do you like it?
G: Not really, but she might look for it.

Gifts can be a source of joy and stress. Gift clutter is a particularly sensitive topic. Whether it's a present from your mother-in-law or a handmade gift, getting rid of gifts that don't suit you can be difficult to deal with since it stirs emotions like guilt, worry and even fear.

The new 'rule'

Does anyone recall any rule that says we have to keep gifts we get? I only know the "Never insult a gift and always accept graciously" part. Here's a thought. When we give someone a present, it's yours. Gifts shouldn't come with an "obligated to keep" tag. One should be able to do whatever one wants with it. That would include giving it away.

Still feeling guilty?

I say keep the love and toss the symbol. It's the thought that counts anyway and that's enough. If you want to remember the item but do not wish to keep it (it can eat too much space) doesn't go with anything) take a photo of it and just keep that instead.

If you have a lot, gather everything and take one shot. White on the back of the photo which items were given by whom.

Still stuck?

Still have a room full of gifts to organize? You don't have to wait for a special occasion to give gifts. Don't wait anymore for a special occasion. Just give them away. Gifts given with no specific purpose are the most fun to

get. Be careful when re-gifting, you want to avoid giving the same item back to the giver.

Gifts that are too 'precious' to use

A lot of people refuse to use gifts they like. They save it for "someday." I think we should use and enjoy our beautiful things now rather than just share it. Why use the old ugly plates when you have a box of nicer ones? It's like saying we don't deserve them, like we don't work really good people and we deserve to use good things on ourselves. If it breaks, at least we've utilized it and enjoyed it rather than having it forgotten about.

Don't be a gift slave. Either use it or lose it. It won't be missed. Stop hoarding yourself with unwanted gifts that add clutter to your life. It's a truly meaningful to you then by all means keep it. Keep only things that make you smile when you see them. But other than that, be ruthless. It's your stuff anyway.

If you decide to try out a gift and find out later a while that it doesn't work for you, your it as ASAP. Don't let it linger in your space. Be gift master free.

What can you do with overhead space in your closet?

It depends on the size but the best things to put in high places are items you rarely use. Be careful not to store heavy items up there, that's a health hazard. You may store extra beddings, out-of-season clothes or even guests.

Even gifts may clutter your life. If you don't need them, give them away

How and where do you store gowns?

Store gowns in canvas garment bags. Storing them in the closets plastic bags is a no-no. You can also keep them in their original box (if space permits) especially when it has a lot of embellishments. A box can keep embellishments from being crushed. Once a year, air out gowns to keep them in their best condition.

How and where to store expensive leather shoes?

Keep them in their boxes. Make sure shoes are clean before you store them. Leather needs to breath so don't put them in airtight plastic containers.

Having an organizing dilemma or want to share an excellent organizing tip? Post at www.inquirer.net/sunday.columns and get your answer or tip included in future articles.

Ideas that can limit gift clutter this coming holiday season

- Gift cheques at service stores: a makeover at a salon like Bench Fix or a nap at the spa like Oasis
- Gift no consumable items—a favorite coffee shop like Starbucks or Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf or the grocery
- Gift at department stores, even upscale shops like Rustan's Optique or Landmark's Beauty Bar or specialty gift outlets, you just need to ask or make inquiries
- Gift of time: Medical Check-up (Medical Checkpoint)
- A donation to a charity organization under someone else's name
- A donation to a museum or Sunday Funhouse where you can adopt a tree and have it grow your name. (Donation receipt's informative when doing this. If the person is not a natural lover, enclosing a card that says a tree was named after him might not be exciting.)
- Movie, theatre or concert tickets
- Gas cards, prepaid cards, internet cards
- Enroll someone in a class they'll be interested in
- Make-your-make-them-own self-made gift coupons or recipient gift-what-you-or-they-want. (One caution, for different priced items, remember to be fair.)
- Announce that you do not wish to receive any gifts but prefer to receive the gift of time in service or even a heartfelt letter of appreciation.

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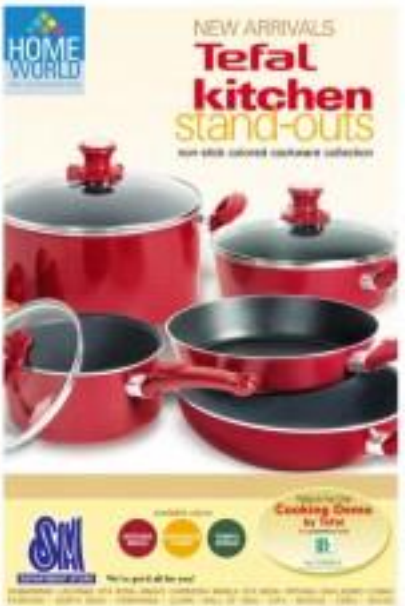
No.3


HOME WORLD
NEW ARRIVALS
Tefal
kitchen
stand-outs

TODDLERS learn paddling techniques.

Series helps urbanites attain rounded lifestyles

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS has launched the Urban Lifestyle Series, a choice of classes encouraging people to take time off work and enjoy the lifestyles they deserve.

The launch featured activities that complemented the lifestyles of Community Innovations' target markets for developments: The Columns Legazpi Village, Two Serendra, Celadon Residences and Verdana Homes Marcelo.

Community Innovations, an Ayala Land company, is the first real estate developer to focus on urban achievers, career-minded individuals with discerning tastes.

Coach Butch Anthony Arroyo Angeles of the first Lasallu Swimming School-conducted Verdana Homes Marcelo.

GRADUATES. Community Innovations recognizes the first Urban Lifestyle Series graduates.

Celadon lets people around to business and families simultaneously.

Lasallu Alvarez conducted parent lessons that may be done in Two Serendra. The "green" community has the country's first ever underground commercial development with infrastructures, communication lines, gates, courts and walkways situated below.

Later, certificates were handed out to the "urban lifestyle graduates."

More activities are planned including Entertaining for Two, Wall Climbing, Chinese Cooking and Kite Flying.

Call 8888888, e-mail us at sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph

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Kasama, Nakikilos, Kabahagi.

Mekeni Food Corporation Taos- Pusong Pasasalamat!

October 26, 2006

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

'Magnanimity in victory!' This was the theme of Mekeni Food Corporation's well-attended gig held on October 26, 2006 at EDSA Shangri-La. It was a night to behold as the company officers and staff members took turns to bond with the stakeholders.

"This is a thanksgiving event," emphasized the beaming Prado Garcia, MFC president. "We express our gratitude to all those who have generously assisted us in this exciting journey of service!"

The victory party was held in view of the two awards the company received recently: the unprecedented Best Meat Processing Plant Award received from the Department of Agriculture - National Meat Inspection Service, 3 years in a row - 2004, 2005 and 2006; and the 22000: 2005 citation from ISO for Food Safety Management System - the First in the Philippines, first in Asia.

The 3-hour event was hosted by top TV personality TJ Manotoc and live event celebrity Dennis Biang Side. A provided the musical entertainment while dance champs UP Street Dancers alternated with lyke performers Mekeni Picnic Barkada to keep on their toes!

"We have received countless blessings from God," said the soft-spoken patriarch Felix Garcia. "The celebration is a but a modest reciprocation of his infinite goodness! It is only fitting that we offer everything to him!"

-MFC

Clean-up time

Cleaning professionals get the job done in high residences

Text by Anne A. Jardines
Photos by Otto Vicoy

IN SKY-HIGH RESIDENCES, BEyond the most elevators, empty hallways and marbled doors is a nifty nook where privacy is measured by the square inch. Here stay the condo chambermaids, professional cleaners trained by experts the quick and efficient job of five-star hotel housekeeping.

Polite and courteous, the cheery bunch greets clients with a ready smile. To address foreign clients appropriately, they even learn a few foreign-language words.

"We offer professional services of home cleaners who equal the skills, style and etiquette of five-star hotel chambermaids," said Alyd & Co. Inc. president Carolyn Ilas-Santos, herself named the 2005 Model Homeowner of the Year by the Clean and Green Project of Ayala Land Corp.

Alyd & Co. Inc. tel. 8152903, 8909032, 0922-8869 085, 0917 8307380 is a service company of professional housekeepers that provides house-cleaning needs of high-end condo residents in Makati, Ortigas and the suburbs.

Alyd, said its managing director Carmela Ilabela, is an extension of shelter to assist on an elderly everyone in the household looks up to. The maxim said that in China, alyd is how expats refer to their domestic help.

Only in its sixth month of operation, Alyd & Co. Inc. services condominiums such as One Rezon Boulevard, Rizal at Rockwell, One Legaspi Park, Monterrazas at Rockwell, Green Belt Madisons, Wilshire at Rockwell, The Coliseum at Ayala (which already has a few occupants), Bell's Plaza at The Net, Prince Plaza II, Ortigal Gardens, Cityland, and many more. They have also extended their services to homes in Dasmariñas Village, Makati and Forbes Alabang Village. Recently, the company has been accredited by Ayala Properties Management Corp. to service its home properties.

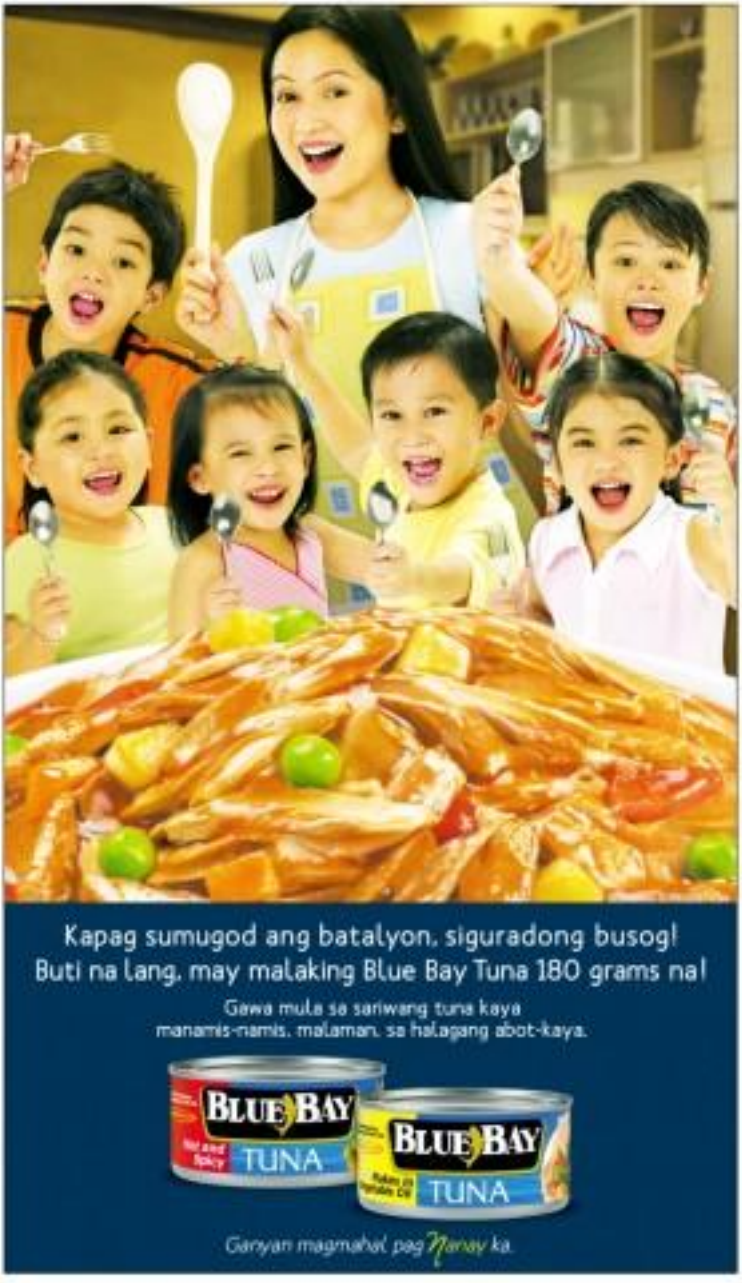
Downside of 'high living'

Living in limited condominium spaces for over a decade now, This trend is sadly too-familiar with the downside of living high up off the ground. A demanding lifestyle makes residents too weary to look after their homes themselves. Getting a trusted household and lasting personal space is just one of the problems. Hiring a pet on a weekly basis is another.

This year, along with some partners, Ilas-Santos decided to professionalize the home-cleaning industry by setting up a company that aims to bring back dignity to a livelihood looked down upon by society. To do this, applicants that earn the company brand's recognizance underwent months of rigid training, on and off the job...from cleaning homes the professional way to how they must conduct themselves when in the presence of a client.

CLEANING UP, F1

ALYD professionalizes the local housekeeping industry by providing hotel-grade services.



Clean-up time

(TOP) THE OCCUPANT and her pet dog look on as the Chambermaids do their work. (Above) Feedback sheet is filled out by a client before the chambermaids leave her home.

Front page F1

"We put them through periodical programs. The chambermaids' name tests and company-like lifestyles of tet. there are much them with values, then we freeze them again on the values may with them," Sidora said.

A lawyer who took up courses in Applied Behavioral Science in the United States, Sidora himself put the 12 chambermaids through weeks of behavioral seminars. The people behind Abel believe a clothing of attitude to just as important as learning the skills of housekeeping. After all, the main concern of their clientele is hygiene.

Abel & Co. Inc. recognizes the line of sympathetic to housekeeping. Chambermaids' name entering an exclusive address such as One Ikoyi Boulevard. To eliminate risks, the housekeeping team always come in pairs, with one looking out after the other.

Sidora said the strategy is also to protect the interest of the company. Most most of its employees are young and pleasant-looking, the risk of clients becoming too fond with the girls is also avoided.

Personal hygiene

The uniformed chambermaids were also given a course on personal hygiene. Since they won't on an average of four cooks suite per day most of the time walking from one building to the other, Sidora said it is important they look and smell sensible at all times.

Sidora if it not unusual to find a cat or two or a dog in many residences, the chambermaids have also been trained on how to deal with pets. And they do treat house pets the way they do its owners.

A former operations manager of The Glass Co. trained its employees in the technical skills of housekeeping. It was difficult at first, with some teams finishing a job for several hours. Today, a team could easily finish its work at an hour for Basic Cleaning, and two hours for General Cleaning.

The company also accepts carpet shampooing, upholstery cleaning, floor waxing and polishing, curtain and bed linen laundry, dry clean, laundry, appliance repair, marble crystalline salon, and kind floor cleaning for an extra fee.

Rates are affordable at ₦35/square metres. Most many studio units pay as a more 20-sq m floor area, a minimum of ₦2000 is required for Basic Cleaning. Minimum for General Cleaning is ₦700. Upon completion of job, clients are made to sign a feedback sheet. If clients are not amused, a feedback sheet will be left to be seen.

The chambermaids have the benefits of regular office workers, from sick leaves to vacation leaves to getting them their burial insurance members. Each is insured, equipped with cell phones and 4Hip'kits. It is one of the company's goals that their girls make a career out of their work.

"Our housekeepers are carefully selected, meticulously trained, security- and health-cleared with appropriate government agencies," Tan-Jimoh said.

E-mail the author at ajimbola@thisdayonline.com

THE BATHROOM, the first part of the home that gets a good scrub, is meticulously tidied up.

6 house-tidying tips

A SPOTLESS HOME CAN BE ACHIEVED BY FOLLOWING A systematic way of cleaning your space. Abel & Co. Inc. gives a few pointers on how to make your home cleaning chores easier without missing a corner.

1 Always start in reverse to bottom. As accumulated dust and dirt on walls and coatings do obey the law of gravity. When they contact loose crannies are disturbed, they are bound to fall on the floor. To save time from cleaning-up twice on the same spot, do the ceiling first, followed by the walls.

2 Move in another style to light, or light work, whichever to your preference. By putting air order by your movements, you are sure to never miss an area in your home. This step is followed by a counter-clockwise or clockwise rotation for that floor/wall.

3 Clean this bathroom, kitchen, bedroom, living room preferably in this order.

4 Bathrooms are one of the busiest rooms in a home. By scrubbing them clean first, discomfort that could arise from a long wait can be avoided. Clean the shower area first, followed by the medicine cabinet, mirror, bathroom sink and toilet bowl. Before starting, however, sprinkle disinfectant into the bowl to give time for the chemicals to do their magic.

5 For the rest of the areas in the house, the rule of thumb applies: top to bottom, left to right and counter-clockwise. For instance, cupboards in the kitchen must be wiped clean first before doing the sink. Or, the mirror in the living room must come first before the TV console. Work your way down.

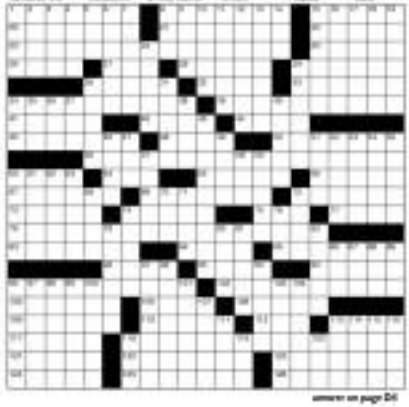
6 The floors must be the last task on the list. Whenever you don't see clothes on the floor, then you're ready to clean it. Mop, sun-and polish the floor before making the new final inspection.

If you're a newbie in the housekeeping department, it might take you half a day — more or even — on your first few attempts. Don't lose heart. Don't get the hang of it yourself, or admit defeat soon and get a pro to do it for you.

Arone A. Ajimbola

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo — **SWAP**



answers on page D6

THE COUPLE has filled their home with things that delight the heart, including this comfy sofa set in the sun room where the couple likes to relax after a tiring day.

Heirloom furniture that remain contemporary

WHILE THERE IS THE RIGHT judge of whether a particular furniture piece is durable enough to become a family heirloom something some individuals have a knack for choosing pieces that can potentially last for generations.

Business-couple Angie and Ahmed Angan, for instance, has a house full of hand-me-down pieces that they know their children's children will enjoy. The items are by renowned American furniture maker Ethan Allen.

"They're pretty expensive but definitely worth it," said Angie. "Most of them are eight years old, like our Medallion beds, yet they never look outdated. They're in excellent condition as when they were first delivered to the house and they feel as comfortable as ever."

The Ogunsa have transformed their dining/Hills home into a lovely family retreat, which is a veritable showroom of Ethan Allen.

"From the very beginning, since we moved in this house eight years ago, we've always wanted Ethan Allen. The brand imparts not just the design ambiance that we were looking for, but more importantly quality," Mansa said.

"We love the accomplished design. It's very easy on the eyes and classy. It's finely crafted, too, and made of hardwood so it's very sturdy," said Angie.

The couple was also happy to note that in-house design consultants were pleased to help them pick just the right pieces for their home.

Through its complimentary design service, Ethan Allen's team of professional designers can help clients in refining design dilemmas in creating custom furnishings and in defining the decorating budget.

The couple are also loyal to Ethan Allen because they are assured of a convenience service long after the items have been delivered.

The pieces are strategically placed in strategic areas of the home. A rustic cabinet prominently stands at the right corner of the living room and houses the family's crystal collection.

A single accent table positioned in front of the main door accents the wooden figurine of a man and woman secluded in a passionate embrace.

The dining room boasts of a stately dining set made of cherry wood. The table is expandable and can seat up to 12 people.

To Angie, however, the master's bedroom is her favorite part of the house and the cherry wood bed her most prized furniture piece.

"As soon as I enter the room and see the bed, it immediately get into me mode," she said. "It feels so inviting and comfortable it reminds me of lying on a bed at a five-star hotel in the US."

The Ethan Allen design center is at the corner of Bourdet and Bellance Streets, Hotel-Ikoyi. Dial 4346587 or e-mail customer@ethanallenglobal.com. Log on to www.ethanallenglobal.com

ANGIE and Ahmed Angan

Homey vignettes of self

Eight interior designers present their take on personal home décor

LARGER THAN LIFE. The red lounge takes the centerstage in this den designed for the modern, vibrant woman.

Text by Anne A. Jamboro
Photos by Claire Vesino

TEXTURES, COLORS, fabrics, patterns, scale, lighting. Play and experiment. Let your home become your canvas, a vignette about your unique personality. Indulge. It's your space, anyway.

Some and office furnishing and accessories retailer Rhea has teamed up with eight designers from the Philippine School of Interior Design and Philippine Institute of Interior Designers for "Your Space Exactly," an exhibit of modern and contemporary pieces with a touch of tropical that runs until Oct. 30 at the Ayala Nuvo, Makati. Ayala Ave. cor. Makati.

Cholly Lafuente's Modern Asia is a fusion of modern, oriental, Filipino and tropical ambiences. Ebony wavy, coffee, charcoal, cream and mocha take the centerstage of the living area. These colours outline the white-stitched leather sofa.

High Rise Living by Arsenio Tee reveals how small space can be made exciting. Tee said the end result makes a statement about a strong, independent personality. The right furniture and accessories, some considerations for scale and proportion, and functional pieces add warmth to the living area.

In Cecilia Rosete's Bon Appetit, kitchen essentials stimulate appetite and good conversation. The color scheme is warm and cozy and while the backdrop is modern, traditional concepts and accessories create the right atmosphere for dining.

Male pad

Masculine and urban need not be stiff in Becky Archbold's Home resting Plus. Designed for comfort and function, with luxurious almost always on top of every man's list, aesthetic elements soften the leather, glass and steel opposite.

Larger Than Life a Carol Chua's vision of the vibrant, modern woman. A red lounge dominates the den, as Asian pieces enhance the Dominican dwellers. The black and white throw pillows soften the glow for moments of solitude and relaxation.

Bedrooms should always be a space that encourages sleep. So, Arsenio Archbold's Serene Nights-edible base are utilized to create a mood for luxurious repose and sweet hours. The ensemble is a blend of contemporary style and retro modern as Asian touches such as retro-retro warriors and tea-type vases provide character to the room.

In Sophisticated Slumber, neutrals are exploited in the master's suite. Subdued and confident, Mina Rivera's design carefully chooses pieces for their soothing effect, magnified by soft and luxurious fabrics and muted lighting.

Home office means accessorizing. Black, gray and silver subtly grab audacious accents of red make the Corporate Suite by Jo Madrid, Straight lines, cutting edge furniture and the use of glass and steel encourage the executive mind to think. The avant-garde space amplifies a symbol of power and confidence.

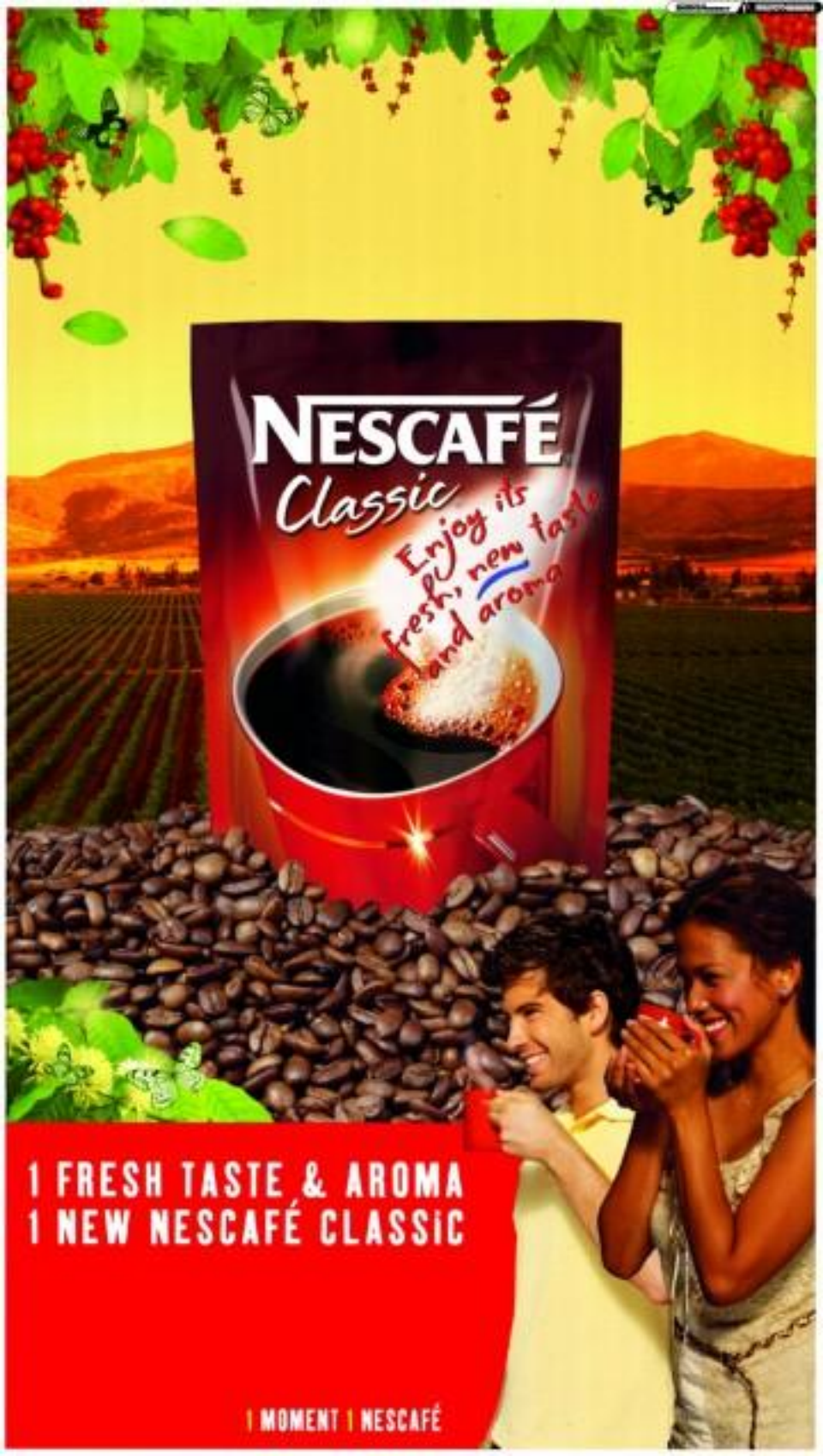
"Rhea offers a variety of home furniture and accessories to cater to the wide range of demands from our clients," said Bernardi Navarro, marketing supervisor of Rhea Fine Furniture.

Electrifying colors make up many pieces of the showrooms, but that's because Filipinos have become more daring in decorating their homes, Navarro said. The modern tropical theme for this year reflects the urban lifestyle without losing the basic identity.

E-mail the author at ajamboro@inquirer.com.ph

SEND-NIGHTS. Grasia's mod with 1920s-inspired patterns is retro, a young and hip style.

ASIA APPETIT. Traditional concepts with contemporary pieces and accessories create an atmosphere conducive to good food and conversation.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1 NEW NESCAFÉ CLASSIC
1 MOMENT 1 NESCAFÉ

Sunday LIFESTYLE

NCCA 2006 champions Sisi Dinda Red Lions

ATENEO Blue Eagles

ADIDAS-SUPPORTED team Letran Knights

Adidas and NBA join forces

ADIDAS, THREE POINTS!

It was like a championship moment for one of the greatest brands in the sport of basketball as the Adidas Group and the National Basketball Association signed an 11-year global merchandising partnership that will make Adidas the official uniform and apparel provider for the NBA, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and the NBA Development League (D-League) beginning the 2006-2007 NBA season.

The new relationship with Adidas comes as a result of Adidas' acquisition of Reebok International Ltd., the NBA's exclusive uniform and apparel provider since 2001. The deal includes rights to sell apparel and casual and performance footwear in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia.

"As part of the Reebok integration, we as a group made this strategic decision which we believe will significantly help us immediately increase the visibility of Adidas as a sports performance brand in the US," said Adidas Group CEO and chair Herbert Hainer. "In the long term, this new 11-year partnership lets the powers to make the NBA and Adidas synonymous in basketball."

"This partnership deepens our relationship with a sports league that continues to soar in global popularity," said Erich Stamminger, president and CEO of the Adidas brand. "We are building a foundation on which we can grow the sport of basketball globally."

"The Adidas brand is recognized for its excellence in sports heritage and performance on a global basis," said NBA commissioner David Stern. "NBA and Adidas apparel and footwear will be available in even more fans around the world, increasing our effort to expand the league's accessibility to consumers fans can dribble a ball or watch a basketball game."

Jerry Siegler, managing director of Adidas ADIDAS 02

ATENEO Blue Eagles Women's Team

PUREFOODS Chonbee Gervo, 2006 Foras Cup champion

ADIDAS president Erich Stamminger and NBA commissioner David Stern

ADIDAS jersey for Houston Rockets

ADIDAS basketball stars Wesley Gonzales, Enrico Villanueva, PJ Simon and Larry Fonacier

ADIDAS jersey for Orlando Magic

ADIDAS Streetball finalists (Philippine Team) wins first runner-up in the recent Streetball Challenge in Guangzhou.

ADIDAS jersey for Miami Heat

Adidas teamwork: It takes five!

ADIDAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE launch of a new global basketball movement featuring NBA All-Stars Houston Rockets' Yao Ming, Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett, San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, and Detroit Pistons' Chauncey Billups.

The movement of the "It Takes 5IVE" campaign is based on the idea of believing in something bigger than the individual—believing in five, believing in team.

This will be showcased in the upcoming Adidas global basketball campaign, "It Takes 5IVE." The campaign will feature situations highlighting the players as individuals. And in the end the players tell the viewers they have been fooled if they believe it is any one individual alone. "It Takes 5IVE" stars working together to do great things.

"We wanted to tap into the idea that there is more to the game than just individual achievements, and hence we the value of being part of a team. That is the true spirit of the game of basketball," said Eric Liedtke, SVP of Global Brand Marketing for Adidas.

"Bringing together five of the game's most successful athletes and having them deliver the message that real success can only come from being part of a team, and that any individual achievements cannot measure to the success that five players on the court can achieve together, will show that teamwork in the truest essential aspect to a team sport."

The campaign came up the message of teamwork by conveying a different characteristic that each of these All-Stars brings to the team. The brand prize all American all five athletes blending into each other as they go quite a distinct look.

During the campaign, each of the athletes involved will also launch his own signature shoe.

"It is important for people to know that without my teammates, I wouldn't have a signature shoe," said McGrady. "So for me, my signature shoe represents my teammates, not just me."

Adidas has been providing innovative products for the world's best athletes for over 80 years. Some NBA legends such as Jerry West, Dave Robinson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to other star athletes like Adam Morrison, Dwight Howard, Josh Smith, Sebastian Telfair and T.J. Ford.

IT TAKES five, featuring NBA All-Stars Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett, Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady, San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan and Detroit Pistons' Chauncey Billups

BEHIND-THE-SCENES in the making of the It Takes 5ive Adidas campaign

Adidas and NBA join forces

From page G1

Philippines Inc., said, "We are really excited about the partnership especially since basketball remains the biggest sport in the Philippines. Filipinos are aware of the NBA's biggest fans. It just goes to show our support for one of the world's greatest games."

Hogue added, "We are amplifying the brand's support for the sport in the Philippines as well. We continue to support the local leagues and have partnered with some of the most notable personalities of the game including the Tanduay Giants Chamber coaches Jacinto Red Lipata, Arnie Hao Espino, Jimmy Mariano, Alvin Hao Espino, Alvin Hao Espino, Women's Team, Letran Knights, just to name a few."

The NBA, founded in 1946, is a global sports and entertainment brand that features 30 teams in the United States and Canada, distributed in 213 countries, and aired in 45 languages.

Adidas will be launching its NBA apparel in the Philippines in January 2007, and will be available in Adidas shops and sporting stores. So, basketball fans, watch out!

ATENEO BLUE EAGLETS: IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

adidas-supported team Ateneo Blue Eagles are flying high with their recent triumph. These young men are indeed showing undeniable promise and potential, making them the team and players to watch.

Following in the wake of other adidas teams like the San Beda Red Lions who clinched the NCAA Championship and the Purefoods Chunkies (Santo who won the World Cup this year, the Eagles proved that "impossible is Nothing" as the underdog team in the competition, no one predicted they would make it to the finals. The Ateneo Eagles found themselves in the finals vying for the title of UAAP season 69 juniors basketball champions, and emerged triumphant in a stunning finale that captured the attention of many.

The Ateneo Junior Eagles (6-0 MBC) are the same people to approach as the Senior Eagles team in preparing for their games in the UAAP Juniors 69 finals. "All of them worked together and didn't rely on one particular person to carry them through," says Ateneo Eagles head coach, Arturo Jamin. "It's a special group who made it all the way."

The Ateneo Eagles, like the Eagles, underwent tedious year-long preparations and development upon a planned winning strategy. This strategy involved a holistic approach in training young players. "Our training strategy included skill and conceptual training, making their minds off the court so we can develop them not just as players but as individuals," says Coach Jamin.

"We were very excited for the Eagles when we realized they had made it to the finals, and further overjoyed when they clinched the championship. They showed so much promise and potential. They represent the future of the sport. As it is, they are good. Given the proper training, guidance, and experience — we are surely to witness great things from them in the future," says Jose Singian, Managing Director, adidas Philippines.

Co-Captain, Kevin Gamboa attributes their impressive performances to the most fundamental value in any group sport: teamwork. "We stick and work hard as champions because of our unity and camaraderie," he says.

Assistant Coach Jo Silva says that despite their young age and the pressure to play at a higher level, the Eagles have exceeded expectations. "It's a young team. Sophomores are the MVPs with no marquee player," says Silva. This season's line-up included Mike Cantoria (Senior Guard), Joseph Tiongson (Junior Guard), RJ Ibanez (Sophomore Guard), Ateneo Blue Eagles' Starting Five: Kevin Gamboa (Co-Captain/Forward), Mike Cantoria (Co-Captain/Forward), Ervin Esguerra (Junior Guard), Kevin Gamboa (Junior Forward), Arnell Aparicio (Junior Forward), Antonio Gonzaga Sr. (Forward), Jason Ballesteros (Junior Forward), Evan Enriquez (Sophomore Center), Frank Golla (Sophomore Center).

During this season, while they lost their first game, the Ateneo Eagles beat out Far Eastern University, 70-67 during game two. In spite of the height advantage of the FEU team during the earlier part of the game, the team's full-court trapping defense was their winning strategy against FEU and soon they had found themselves in an exciting game three showdown. The team's 63-61 winning streak over University of the East has catapulted them to the in-pick, finish-of-the championships.

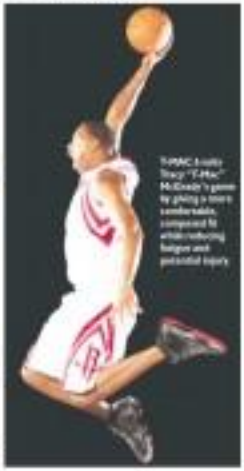
T-MAC LAUNCHES SIXTH EDITION

THE T-MAC 6 shoes in white can help position the foot quicker and allow horizontal forces to be applied faster.

THE T-MAC shoes in black has a five-pod Adidas ForMotion™ technology. ForMotion™ is designed for athletes who use quick changes of direction for exceptional control and absorbed impact.

After his Manila visit, Tracy 'T-Mac' McGrady launches a new shoe: the T-Mac 6, a combination of his athletic creativity and Adidas' ForMotion™ technology

TRACY "T-Mac" McGrady is the only athlete in history to ever be given a lifetime partnership deal with Adidas.



T-MAC 6 suits Tracy "T-Mac" McGrady's game by giving a more comfortable, composed fit while reducing fatigue and potential injury.

TRACY "T-Mac" McGrady has high hopes for the coming NBA season.

ADIDAS HAS LAUNCHED THE T-MAC 6, a combination of Mini superstar Tracy McGrady's on- and off-court creativity and Adidas' ForMotion™ technology (Formally Ground Control System).

"Inspiration for the T-MAC 6 comes from the way Tracy plays and his on-court creativity. He has this 'on/off' type of play; he goes from super-relaxed to just explosive in a heap of a hurry," said Kyle Pelli, basketball category designer. "His on-court creativity allows us, as a design team, the opportunity to create a shoe that mirrors him and the many amazing things he can do on the court."

The defining feature of the new T-MAC 6 is the Adidas ForMotion™ technology, which gives exceptional control during high-speed on-court play and adapts to that style and the court. ForMotion™ units are incorporated along the lateral outside stitch to give maximum contact with the floor, adding stability to every move made on the court. No matter how hard the cut or how quick the stop, ForMotion™ gives the player an assist on court footing.

T-MAC 6 is a true combination of the Adidas ForMotion™ technology with T-MAC's creative style.

What does this mean to user's game? Instead of devoting extra energy and attention to staying in control, now you can focus on making that next quick cut to blow the opposition away.

The T-MAC 6 will come in two initial colorways: black/red and white/black/red, with an additional color hitting the market in February 2005 around the NBA All-Star Game.

SAN BEDA RED LIONS: IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

In their first year as an adidas-supported team, the San Beda Red Lions showed great determination and teamwork. They have indeed proven that 'Impossible is Nothing'!

The mantra 'Impossible is Nothing' can't be truer than to the San Beda Red Lions. After 28 long years since their last victory in the NCAA and nearly a decade since they last entered the finals, the Red Lions gloriously emerged triumphant in this year's 82nd NCAA Championships. The Red Lions beat out Philippine Christian University, 69-61, at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions have proven that with talent, determination, and heart, anything is possible. "The San Beda Red Lions have struck basketball fans with an impressive comeback," says Joey Duanto Singian, Managing Director, Philippines "They truly embody the spirit of our motto 'Impossible is Nothing' can't be true.

"In their first year as an adidas-sponsored team, the Red Lions showed great determination, teamwork, and has indeed proven that 'impossible is nothing.' Not even a 28-year-long drought could hinder these youngsters in working towards winning the title once again," adds Singian.

"We hope to end this long wait, but we know that it would be really, really hard," Coach Koy Banal once said before the Red Lions went on to play the groundbreaking match against PCU. This year's 15-player team was handpicked by Banal.

Starting at center was crowd favorite, MVP and Rookie of the Year, Sam Ehare while Yousif Aljamal began at power forward and Rogelman Manor at small forward. Team captain, Alexander Angeles started at point guard while rookie, John Paul Escobal served as shooting guard. The bunches included Raymond Maggay, Jay-R Taganas, Angelito Tauyan and Mabin Lloyd Antioro. The line-up is completed by Alegs Mariandz Garnaticia, Eduardo Tenorio, Jan Abram Evangelista, Kevin Espinosa, John Carlos Hernida and Eduardo Cantao.

The team's strength lies in the players' unique traits and playing experiences. Ehare's impressive blocks, Manor's flexible ability to score inside and outside the court, Escobal's precision, Aljamal's and Angeles's professional experiences with the PBL.

"Coach Banal made sure that we stayed focused on the game and put our best efforts in it," says rookie player and MVP winner, Samuel Ehare. "We kept telling us teammate! And that's what we upheld and made all the difference. This is a collective effort," he adds. "I can't do anything without my teammates. Without teammate, individual skills mean nothing."

Impossible is Nothing meant a unified drive towards achieving our goal. Moreover, the team's fiery determination had been fueled even more by the Beskers themselves, who have stood by the Red Lions and cheered them to the end with the victorious dedication of the school only. "And 28-n 82."

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Photo taken by Jim Isaac-Fe Cotter on 28 September 2006, the night Milenyo hit Manila. Reprinted with permission from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edcx Ennnie G. Velarde

The sun also rises for Deborah

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A FEW DAYS AFTER GRINDMAN ELVIS RE-lease from prison, her friend Amalia Fuentes took her to the movies.

"She wasn't used or going out. It seemed she was afraid of people. In fl she wanted to hide behind me," Amalia recalled.

"I will have this first in me," Deborah excitedly told Inquirer Entertainment.

It was because her reconvention had come as a huge shock to her, she revealed. "I was assured by my counsel that it was okay for me to go home because my case had already been archived."

In October 2004, Deborah arrived in Manila from New York. After almost a year in Septem-ber 2005, she was thrown in jail for a 1989 case involving bounsing checks, filed by fellow actress Loma Tolentino.

It was but one setback in a long line of disappointments for Deborah, or Jean Louise Sheridan-noted life.

In the 1970s and 1980s, she was a "sensa-tional" character actress, featured in the movies of manager Jun Gallangher ("Tinapa-ting Hasol"), Lito Brioñas ("Huwe Ko ang Daigdig") and Elwood Perez ("Pakawalan Mo Siko"). For the latter, she was nominated for a Famas Best Supporting Actress in 1981.

Vitrl's twins

"French director Louis Malle wanted to fate her in a movie," Ganingalan volunteered. "Malle was the friend of Jeany de Lauzé's scriptwriter Pierre L. Salas. And I was told Malle saw her in my movie 'Bodyguard.' He compared Deborah to Italian actress Monica Vitti."

The international project, however, fizzled out.

Dizzying highs and lows have marked Deborah's life, like the stuff "Magpakailanman" and "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episodes are made of.

She was a mother at 16. At 24, she bore the child of a married man, fellow Regal Baby Jimi Melendez. At 31, she was a fugitive. At 42, she became a mother for the third time. At 47, she was convicted.

She describes the 13 months she had spent in prison as a "learning experience."

"It made me stronger," she said.

She also quit smoking in the women's correctional, she proudly declared.

"I made a deal with God. I would give up cigarettes if He would shorten my stay there. It was the only thing I could offer. I couldn't give up sweets! I don't have a boyfriend now," she added with a hearty laugh. "Quitting smoking made me gain 30 pounds, though."

She followed all the rules to prove she said. "I made sure that my carpet (sweat) was clean. I didn't want to jeopardize my freedom. Every re-mainsterinkled in ECES, Good Conduct Time Allowance. For good behavior, two months (from every year) is cut from your sentence."

Humanitarian

Deborah, sentenced to five years and eight months in jail, was originally scheduled for discharge on March 29, 2008 because of GCTA.

"My release came earlier because I was given a conditional pardon by President Macapagal-arroyo, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, for humanitarian reasons," she recounted.

Even before her imprisonment, she had been diagnosed with liver cancer. "I was also checked by doctors in jail."

Superintendent Isabel O. Ibardo and Amalia played key roles in securing Deborah's early release.

"I grew fond of Deborah because she's a good friend of Bob Sarmiento, my brother Cheng Shinbat's former partner," said Amalia.

Deborah added, "Superintendent Ibardo was kind to me. Ate Nena (Amalia) at Nonoi helped a lot. She made sure my papers were processed quickly. She also visited me every now and then. Other frequent visitors are Bob, Arnold Briones and Chito Aldd. My Tito Phillip Gallardo also dropped by every third Tuesday of the month."

She admitted that she went through the usual denial period during her first few weeks in jail. "Later, I had no choice but to accept my fate. Even though the place and my fellow inmates were nice, it was still prison. It still took a lot of getting used to."

She has no bitterness in her heart, she insisted. "I blame no one but myself for what happened. My advice to other people is to avoid trouble. Don't sign checks using (bank) funds (indiscriminately). If they're not sure of something, they should think about it a hundred times."

Prison also taught her to take responsibility for her past errors.

"My biggest mistake was that I didn't attend

15 years and counting

From page H4

our marriage.

In the darkest of times, did you ever reconsider leaving each other?

Joy: Oh, yes. We weren't Christians at the time, and our decisions and resolution were based on selfishness. Whenever I felt I didn't like the situation, I would always think of separating as the easiest option.

Robert: Well, yes. I thought it was the only option. I always blamed Jim. I never checked myself. I now view God to guide me in making that relationship even better.

What are the advantages of having a partner who's also a show biz person?

Joy: It's easy to discuss ideas, which usually happens when we go out to dinner, or even at home, over a bottle of red wine.

Robert: Me, cue rehearse whenever we want, even before bedtime.

What about disadvantages?

Joy: There are times when I can't just tell him off. It would be easier to brush him when he commits mistakes if I were just his manager. As his wife, I always have to wait for the proper time to do it. This is hard for me because I can get very impatient.

Robert: That you can rehearse even before bedtime!

What, for you, is the most difficult aspect of parenting?

Joy: Since we'd rather stay away from our kids a lot, I compensate by bringing them to school even if I hardly had sleep. I also bring them to our shows and tolerate their tokhaltan.

Robert: When I have to hide my feelings from them. There are times when I really want to spoil my kids, but I know this isn't good, so I just say no. It's hard to always be a role model.

How far would you go in terms of disciplining your children?

Joy: Taking away from them the very things that make them happy, like TV or cell phone or game cards.

How different is this year's "Love You, With You, Love You" from that one you did in 2005?

Joy: This is more fun! Staircase (in Greenhills) is our cue! because it's a theater. (Last year's shows were held at Music's Silence in Greenbelt, Makati.)

Robert: The stage is bigger so we can move more. We also have new songs and more gags.

Why did you choose to do an album of old Filipino songs?

Joy: I love Sondheim. I also love black-and-white movies. I find them very romantic and very Pinoy. That's why I enjoy appearing in the TV show, "Asintan Kita." We feel these songs should be heard and enjoyed by our children. If we don't share these songs with the youth, they will be forgotten.

Robert: What doesn't like listening to Pinoy classics? There is nothing wrong with today's music, but listen to the melody and lyrics of the classics and you'll agree with me.

Which song from the nine tracks in the CD is relevant to your heart?

Joy: I like Robert's rendition of "Sabi sa Magtu," by Ernani Cuenco and Levi Celerio.

Robert: I like Joy's version of "Ang Huling El Bimbo" by Ryan Cayabyab and Jose Jacinto Reyes.

What else do you plan to do?

Joy: I'd like to manage and develop talent (singers, produce quality shows, musicals and albums.

Robert: We aspire for world-class entertainment and right treatment for all artists.

DEBONAIR wants to take 24-year-old son just back to the US. "My dream is for my entire family to live there."

The sun also rises . . .

From page H4

ing beatings. I was tired in showbiz because I gave up the chance to do [illegible] she looked back. "I chose to stay single."

It was last father, the late actor-director Leroy Salvador, who had reminded Deborah to move to the US, "so that I could start a new life."

Life in NY

In New York, she worked as cookie saleslady for stores like Banana Republic and Armani.

"Hollywood actors from Seinfeld sets my regular customer in Banana Republic (BR) Avenue. She liked with The Bubbles drawers and they often bought clothes for their children from the store," she remembered. "My Lolo (the late TV host Inday Badiday) also visited me in New York."

She was in the Big Apple at the time of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "All the stores downtown were closed. I worked near the World Trade Center."

The uncertainty in post-9/11 America was one of the reasons Deborah had thought of home.

Her 6-year-old daughter Jessica Joy is now living with her mom, Cameron "Baby" Newman in Los Angeles, she said.

To digress a bit, Her mom's ex-child-bride was buried into a movie by filmmaker Danny Zialcita—"Hindi sa Iyo ang Mundo, Dalia Dorisca," for which Beth Bautista won an Urian Best Actress in 1978.

"That's why my mom is close to both. My mom's youngest brother is Quagmire's Boy Eddie, Rudy Meredez (Lorna's husband) played him in the movies."

If she decides to be US, she would need to "start from scratch," she acknowledged. "I have to look for a new job and a new house to rent. My things were put in storage. I don't know if I can retrieve them. It's as if I've lost everything."

Now, her immediate goal is to work in the Philippines. "But I need to have my teeth fixed before I could start working. I need to return my phone line back to the US. I also want to take my [33-year-old] daughter Jolnie, and [24-year-old] son Alex down. My dream is for all of us to live there."

Being a grown-cool Jubilee, she can avail of free medical treatments there, she said. "I hope I'll have effort to do movies and TV shows again. I'm even willing to join a game show!"

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G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3/1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	
	4 WORLD TRADE CENTER	5 OPEN SEASON	6 THE PRESTIGE	7 THE GRUDGE 3
GB1	1 THE GRUDGE 2	2 THE PRESTIGE		
GB3	1/1 THE GRUDGE 2	2/1 THE PRESTIGE		
	3 OPEN SEASON	4 THE DEPARTED	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	
ATC	1/1 THE PRESTIGE	2 OPEN SEASON		
	3 THE GRUDGE 3	4 THE DEPARTED	5 WORLD TRADE CENTER	
ACC	1 THE PRESTIGE	2 OPEN SEASON	3 THE GRUDGE 3	4 PULSE
M2	1 THE GRUDGE 3	2 OPEN SEASON		
	3 THE BANQUET	4 WORLD TRADE CENTER	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	

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From viewer to content provider

VIEWFINDER

Xenior U. Xerez

Internet services attract heavy viewer participation

UP TO THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE LINES IN the traditional chain of broadcast command-nications were clearly drawn. The broadcaster produced, the radio-TV program content, the technology boasted it use, and the viewer received it.

From time to time, experiments to move direct viewer participation were conducted, but these mostly involved the viewer communicating his reactions to program content, choosing between two possible endings to a televised drama, etc.

Some programs did involve members of the audience by asking them to phone in their views, love stories or problems, suggest song selections, or "make bets" to their relatives or friends, but that was about it.

These days, however, some Internet services are threatening to turn the communication equation upside down, by encouraging viewers to become content providers themselves.

They do this by sending in their own video material, which the Internet services then run, for other viewers to unload.

This is no longer just a tentative experiment but a thriving business which grosses billions of dollars a year. It also attracts heavy viewer participation, to the tune of some 65,000 video clips a day!

This is a major development that should be understood and celebrated, because it opens up the video field to practically anybody with a camera, and thus democratizes the communication field.

At long last, mass media need no longer be controlled by a few powerful and wealthy individuals or organizations. If you want to say or show something, you can now do so on the Internet for a potential mass audience to appreciate and react to, as long as you observe ethical and legal guidelines.

To be sure, this new development is fraught with risks and dangers, both seen and unseen. With almost everything up for grabs, the boredom and weirdness quotient of the contributors are expected to be high. One reason why shows are seldom excellent or ten on no hit hits is that only a few people are good at programming.

The issues of ownership and privacy are also major concerns. Some videos have been submitted without their owners' permission, and a number of people have loudly complained that the unauthorized airing of their videos has subjected them to ridicule and has involved in their loss of privacy.

Clearly, stronger rules and guidelines have to be put in place now, as the Internet video services are gaining in popularity, or else this new and very promising development could engender more problems than benefits. That would be such a tragic subversion of a major movement that could eventually revolutionize the all-important field of video communications as we know it.

'Cake'

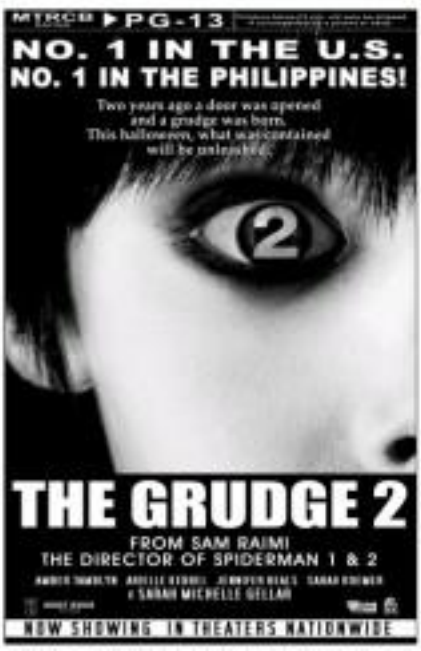
IN HER latest movie, "Cake," Heather Graham plays travel writer Pippa Mellon. She takes a break from her boyfriend to go to Ibiza, only to discover that her (your sexual father has had a heavy attack. The switch on publishing mogul needs her to edit his bestselling book memoirs.

Pippa is forced to accept the assignment, but gets much more than she bargained for. She has an affair with a freelance photographer, is loved by another man, finds herself hailed with work and wanting sex—but it all starts itself out in the end. "Cake" is not just about growing up, but growing up with passion, heart and truth.

'The Prestige'

IN THE "MAGIC" film, "The Prestige," Scarlett Johansson's character is torn between two men, rival magicians, played by Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale.

Directed by Christopher Nolan, the film casts Johansson as Olivia, the mysterious woman who is Jackman's assistant before she becomes Bale's. Out of pure malice, Jackman's character sends Olivia to spy on his rival—with complex consequences.



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9 THE GUARDIAN
10 TILL I MET YOU

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6 FEAST
7 THE PRESTIGE

METRO EAST

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 TXT
6 FEAST
7 THE PRESTIGE
8 THE GUARDIAN

NOVALICHES

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 OPEN SEASON
4 THE PRESTIGE

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1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
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4 OPEN SEASON

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2 THE BREED
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON

LIPA

1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE BREED
4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARINAS

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU

ANGELES

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GRUDGE 2

IMUS

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TILL I MET YOU

STARMILLS

1 OPEN SEASON
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 THE PRESTIGE

BACOLOD

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE BREED
5 OPEN SEASON
6 TILL I MET YOU

ILOILO

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2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
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SINGING couple Isay Alvarez and Robert Sena

TAKE FIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

FOR 15 LONG YEARS Isay Alvarez and Robert Sena have been singing duo Robert Jerba and Isay M. romantic schtick.

There was a time, they say, when they actually considered going separate ways. This was when Robert accepted work in London while Isay and their three kids lived here in Manila.

"Living apart and growing apart is not good for marriage," Isay points out.

Robert adds that it was also difficult when he got involved in "too much worldly stuff."

But Isay says, "I'm sure God was just trying to teach us some things. He both realized [our mistakes] before it was too late."

The couple is celebrating the highs and lows of their relationship in a comedy musical titled "Love You, Hate You, Love You" at the Teatrino in Greenhills on Nov. 3, 8 and 10.

"They have also made "Duets," a compilation of Filipino classics, produced by BCAudio and distributed by Sony Music and Videoline.

How did the two of you meet?

Isay: We first worked together in the musical "Magsimula Ka."

Robert: I was a shoe-in boy; she was the lead star.

How did you court Isay?

Robert: I didn't. I used the familiarity technique. Training... just working until she gets tired of saying "No!" Until her only alternative was to say "Yes."

What made you say yes?

Isay: It's funny but we were really good friends when he started giving me the line. When he first asked me in drama, my reaction was, "No way! I know you too well to fall into your trap." He then gave me flowers and my G-spot's apples, which by par-boils the trolley I used in "Sa Kanlungan ng Mga Anghel," I fell for things like that. I got drawn in little by little. I then started seeing him as my lover, not just as a buddy.

What do you think is the key ingredient in your successful marriage?

Isay: We've had friends. We enjoy doing alot of things together. We still do even after 15 years of marriage.

Robert: On top of that, we accept and acknowledge the fact that God is the navigator of

Globe and DOT
give foreign visitors a warm welcome

Foreigners can easily feel at home in the Philippines, thanks to the Meet and Assist Program of the Department of Tourism (DOT) in partnership with Globe Telecom. The Meet and Assist Program offers tourists in the country a warm touch of Filipino hospitality as soon as they arrive, with friendly interpreters fluent in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese who are always on hand to help.

The Program has been such a big help that the DOT believes that it puts the Philippines on the world map in terms of friendliness and helpfulness. "Seasoned travelers have told us that in all the places they've been to, the Philippines is one of the best countries that provide excellent reception service at the airport. Meet and Assist helps promote the Filipinos' reputation as the friendliest in Asia," notes DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

First launched at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) two years ago, the Meet and Assist Program was so successful that it was also soon implemented at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA), one of the country's largest airports and a main travel hub to many of the South's major tourist attractions. Since then, thousands of foreign visitors and tourists have benefited from the Meet and Assist Program.

The interpreters of the Meet and Assist Program help foreigners get off to a good start while they're here. Trained in arrival procedures plus the DOT's special Mabuhay Hosting Program, the friendly interpreters go out of their way to lend a hand so that visitors can have an enjoyable stay in the country. "During primary inspections and interviews, there are things that need to be clarified and we need interpreters on hand to help us," shares Ariel Reyes, an immigration officer.

"Once, we helped a Korean student call his mentor abroad to clarify his accommodations here. We were able to help him make the call and he was picked up by a representative from his school," recalls Ividra James, an interpreter of the Meet and Assist booth at the MCIA.

Globe Telecom also helps visitors have a worry-free stay in the Philippines by keeping them connected back home through Globe's International Roaming Services. There's also a 24-hour hotline for roaming assistance. Globe links tourists to over 200 international destinations so that they can still feel connected with their families abroad.

"Globe Telecom is a very important and supportive partner in promoting the country's tourism industry," DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said.

ang lakas mo sa Globe

ENTERTAINMENT

Miss Earth pulls out of Chile

By Aerwin Adina

MISS EARTH WILL BE HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES again on its ninth year.

During the pageant night in September last year, pageant organizer Carousel Productions announced that Santiago, Chile would host the 2004 Miss Earth pageant.

But Carousel president Ramon Monzon recently said the Philippines would play host this year as usual because "some requirements were not fulfilled by the organizers in Chile."

Carousel project director Peachy Veneracion explained, "The Chilean organizers could not confirm the venue of the pageant, hotel accommodations for the participants and the television station that would broadcast the event."

"They don't even have a national president," added Aji Sifa'Atlanfo, Carousel vice president for external affairs. "I pleaded with [Tourism Secretary] Joe [Durano] when the pageant was set for Chile. I didn't want Miss Earth to leave the country. It was born here, it should stay here."

Sifa'Atlanfo said the pageant was his group's way of helping the country by promoting tourism. "God heard my prayers," she said.

The Chilean government apparently didn't give enough support, Veneracion said.

Until June, Chile was still listed as host city by September, when basic requirements remained unmet, Carousel officials decided to pull the pageant out of the deal and back to the Philippines, where it had been staged for the last few years.

MISS Earth 2005 Alexandra Bryan Waldeck

Outgoing queen Alexandra Braun from Venezuela was delighted with the decision. "This is my second time here in the Philippines and I'm happy to be back," she said to members of the media recently. "I have a lot of memories and great experiences here. You have a great country ... with a great heart."

Miss Philippines Catherine Untalan appeared surprised by her being a host delegate. "It pushes me to give my best," she said, admitting there's "more pressure because everybody's watching." But she assured that her countrymen would be "proud of me."

More than 90 delegates are expected to arrive at the Traders Hotel, their official residence, starting Nov. 8.

Coronation night is set on Nov. 20 and will be televised on GMA-7 at 9:30 p.m. The coronation will be beamed to some 70 other countries via Star World and The Filipino Channel.

Liz Taylor denies marriage plans

LOS ANGELES—ACTRESS ELIZABETH Taylor on Thursday denied reports that she was planning to marry for the ninth time.

Taylor, 74, is being linked romantically with artist-photographer Fiston Zahidi, her personal photographer on her mid-1970s film projects.

Taylor, who called Zahidi "an old and dear friend," said they "have never been and will never be romantically involved."

The violet-eyed actress has been married eight times, twice to actor Richard Burton. Her last marriage, to building inspector Larry Fortensky, ended in divorce in 1996 after about four years. Reuters

DID YOU KNOW...

WHY THEY ARE WEARING RED

VJs KC Montero, Cindy Kurleto and Marc Abaya anchor MTV Global's "Unite for Children, Unite for AIDS" campaign via the 6th Staying Alive Music Summit, on Dec. 3 in the Bonifacio Global City Open Field. Red is the movement's official color. A "Wear Red" signature drive was launched on Wednesday.

MTV Philippines' Marco Borlongan explains the music channel's dedication to the campaign. "Our relationship with the youth of every generation since the 1980s runs deep, and we are fighting to protect them by educating them on HIV/AIDS in ways that we've learned [as] the most effective[in] sending the message across."

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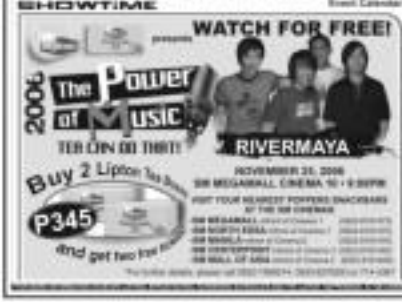


Hot treat or trick

WE GOT THIS E-MAILED (RIGHT) AND accompanying blurb in the mail.

The blurb says: "There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the upcoming (December 2006) cover of FHM Philippines. The editors of the ... magazine (and they have access to a model [and] now) agree to shoot some of the hottest and most daring pages ever in Philippine print media, but much to the delight of the [magis] most loyal fans, FHM has released a copy of the cover, set to hit magazine stands around the country in two weeks."

Tease or trick?

Flying dagger

When a local movie hero is seen catching a "flying dagger in an action scene, it is usually a "reverse shot," a knowledgeable source told us.

This means the character is actually throwing the bladed weapon and then the shot is "reversed," to make it look as if he is catching it.

An actor-politician demanded one such "reverse shot" for his latest potboiler. A self-censoring staff member quickly pointed out: "But there are so many dragonflies...If we do a reverse shot, they would be seen flying backwards!"

They did it, anyway.

The last to know

A producer wants to pull out his Metro Manila Film Festival entry. According to a confidante, the movie must have shelved the project and is sending a March 2007 dated instead.

The director and stars, however, were the last to know of the change of plans.

As press time, not even MMFF officials are aware of the development.

Prodigal baby

From Regal baby to prodigal son?

He used to be Regal producer Lily Monteverde's favorite leading man. But Dennis Trillo is reportedly pissed that he lost the lead to "Mano Po 3: Una Ay Ini" to Richard Gutierrez.

"That's old news," Boxoffice Monteverde-Teo told Bandera.

What made Lily let go of a star she made?

"I don't know what his reason was. It's just that my number 1 (Lit) thinks it's too soon for another Dennis Trillo-Regal Loveteam. Mauo sya after 'DTI'."

Maybe Lily is certain, "Dennis is a good boy. He doesn't make temper."

The Hungry Bum

NEW YORK—Brad Pitt found an interesting way—make that walk—to blow off steam and bring some levity to the set of his new movie, "Babel."

In an interview in Entertainment Weekly's Oct. 30 issue, the 42-year-old actor says he amused himself and his colleagues by cranking up his pants, sticking out his rear and waddling about like a duck. "Throughout the movie, El walk around like this," he says.

"Some scenes got real choppy to make you laugh during the shoot," he adds. "Cate [Blanchett] called it the Hungry Bum."

He explains: "When your bum's so hungry it's trying to eat your pants."

AP

Hot pocket sales

NEW YORK—Mariah Carey's manager says a financial debacle by a pessimist, and not your rabid sales or demands by the pop star, caused the cancellation of her weekend show in Hong Kong.

Carey, who recently finished her nationwide "Adventures of Mimi" tour, was to perform Saturday on an outdoor square in Hong Kong. It was to be the last stop on the four other performances in Japan this week, her manager, Stuey Medina, said Thursday.

But in a posting on its Web site, promoter Concerts Asia said the Hong Kong date was rescinded because the 36-year-old singer had made "specific last-minute demands which we find wholly unreasonable and not with the best interests of Hong Kong, us and also the fans."

The promoter also said it had only sold 4,000 tickets, despite a "substantial" advertising campaign.

In an interview with The Associated Press, however, Medina disputed those claims. He said 6,000 tickets had been sold, and blamed the cancellation on the tour promoter's failure to pay Carey money that was due to her.

AP

Rushes

MADAM AURING

THE CAST of "Inang Yaya"

EVA CALZADO

BRAD PITT

KIRSTEN DUNST

TOM ALLEN

Inhabiting Santa

"The Santa Clause 3" director Michael Lembeck on his lead star Tim Allen: "An amazing thing happens when Tim gets in the Santa suit. He literally, totally inhabits the character."

Allen on his character: "I wonder what it would be like to be the Santa Claus? How weird would it be to not have this great intellectual figure in the world?"

Penguins again

George Miller remains, producer and director of the animated feature "Happy Feet," submit he calls the "dancing penguin movie." Under consideration, he is often asked about the documentary, "March of the Penguins," for clarifier "Happy Feet" started long before "March ..." was released. The fact that the documentary was so successful was a double delight because it helped set up interest in our [project]."

"HAPPY FEET"

Kirsten and Marie Antoinette

Why Kirsten Dunst related so well to her "Marie Antoinette" character: "I started acting when I was 11 and, since then, I've been constantly surrounded by adults, and by people [be trying to please. That's why I really understood the situation she was in...Entering her home and coming to this place where there were all these expectations and all these judgments about her."

About a nanny

Manuel Antonio tackles the role of a divorced nanny in Unibelle Young Stars," inspired by the real-life experience of antipodean Veronica Milanes. Early press dispatches say the movie is for "everyone who's had a yaya(), is a yaya, cares enough or be a yaya, owns the perfect yaya, or whose life has been touched by a yaya." Um, that leaves out us three Pinoys.

'Sirens of the Strip'

This is the new label for singer Lani Misalucha, who's now famed in Las Vegas and singing with the Society of Sirens. We remember SOS, which used to be an all-male group, for earlier having another Filipino, Jun Pellerco as lead singer.

Aside from Lani, the current SOS roster of Tony Halston, Bret Ingram, Marc Encarta, Ricky Lou, Vince Mendoza, Ray Cuevas and Wayne Pinkie. They play Wednesdays through Sundays at the Flamingo. Tickets can be purchased online at www.flamingolasvegas.com.

Snitzer with RP traffic

Inspired by his three-day tour of the Philippines, Germany DJ Ferreira is set to record "Manila" as the final track of his forthcoming 12-track "Modern" album, due out in December.

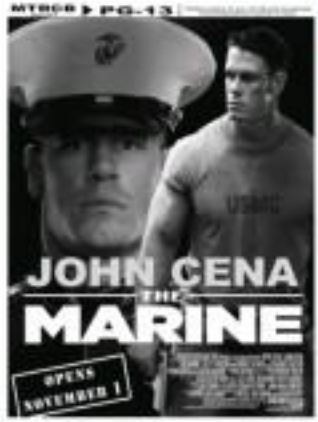
DJ Ferreira performed at several Manila nightspots and at the Manila Zoo as part of the celebration of German month.

"In Manila, we met some of the friendliest people in the world," he says. Also, there were so many things happening everywhere we went—people rushing, traffic—it was a whole new experience for us."

Sense of style

Diner quote from Ice Cubadz, new endorser of body by Pink: "I feel honored and flattered especially because [the] current crop of endorsers are very respectable and have an obvious sense of style."

The rules is Mariel Rodriguez, Marian Gonzales and Sergy Montero.



Speedy, spirited joyride

By Oliver M. Palumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

Will Ferrell mines race car driving for laughs

"TALLADEGA NIGHTS" stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly

WHILE MANY MIGHT THINK THAT RACE car driving is a no-nonsense and humorless sport, Will Ferrell mines it for comedic gold as a dumb but dependable NASCAR driver in "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby."

Reunited with his "Anchorman" collaborator, director and co-writer Adam McKay, Ferrell co-creates a transparent, crowd-pleasing good ol' boy, while not entirely skilled at expressing himself for TV cameras, is beloved in the open speed demon of the tracks. It's the "over-man" journey once again, but "Talladega Nights" has enough re-tooling to stop, thumb in a thorough enough exploration of its simple but promising premise.

Ricky Bobby, the chump "with two First names," isn't without his partner—when he was just a tyke, his drunk janitor father Reese (Gary Cole) fabricated out of his life. Reese did, however, inspire the speed addicted Ricky to aspire to be the best...many years later when he's making a living out of driving fast cars. Originally a pit crew member, he gets rescued by Lucky when a race chance to present itself. He wins, as expected, and a series of victories follow along with countless endorsement deals. But a series of race wins awaits him, as a new opponent challenges his growing complacency.

Selectively funny

Ably serving the exaggerated fun of its various role of Ricky's challenger is Sacha Baron Cohen, who plays the gay French-man, world-car racing champion Jean Girard. He's Ricky's antithesis, a race contract in the big guy's less sophisticated mindset, but Jean is endlessly hilarious and quite confident that he'll emerge victorious against his old-fashioned opponent eventually. Rattled by his competitive and accomplished rival, Ricky begins to doubt his own abilities, and sure enough, relentlessly funny high jinks ensue.

Ferrell conveys a consistent empathy-inducement to Ricky Bobby with the character's lines, the material accentuated by his deadpan delivery, brutish flailing and facial expressions (he's hammier when his face is all scrunched up and serious). But he's also quite funny when he optimally resorts to yelling and panicking, as when his expensive meltdowns on the speedways and other venues.

"Talladega" also easily elicits laughs as characters that coincidentally do unpleasant and incomprehensible things are pleasantly handled by the talented supporting cast, which also includes John C. Reilly (as

Scare fare

NICKELODEON ON ABC BOARDS ITS HALLOWEEN special with the Jumble blue pup as she investigates the source of scary sounds in a haunted house in "Blues Clues" at 7 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Ch. 23.

At 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Dora and Boots set off on spooktacular to look for wizard El Encantador's magic wand in "Dora the Explorer."

"Spongebob turns the tables around by trying to scare everyone at Mr. Krab's Halloween party in "Spongebob Squarepants" at 8:30 a.m.

KID FIT

Resident phantom fighter attempts to beat Dad in a haunted house-decorating contest in "Danny Phantom" at 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Halloween treat

The singing sensations The Chipmunks—Alvin, Simon, Theodore—and their human father Dave go on a wild and wooly adventure when they get stuck overnight at the Rhapsody Movie Studios in "Alvin & the Chipmunks Meet Frankenstein."

Following on them, Dr. Frankenstein has created an attraction called Frankenstein's Castle at the studio with a real Frankenstein monster.

The movie premieres 8 a.m. today on Cartoon Network.

STAR AWARDS for TV 2006 names

GMA

STATION of the YEAR
for the 14th time

Best News Program: 24 ORAS
Best Public Service Show: WOW KO LANG
Best Public Affair Program: IDYAT
Best Public Affair Host: WINNIE MONSOD & OSCAR ORBOS for Debate
Best Travel Show: PINOY ABROAD
Best Travel Show Host: IVAN MAIRINA & RHEA SANTOS for Pinoy Abroad
Best Public Service Show Host: MIKE ENRIQUEZ for Imbestigador
Best Female Newscaster: VICKY MORALES for Saksi
Best Gag Show: BUBBLE GANG
Best Comedy Show: BARRY MO BA 'TO?
Best Comedy Actor: OGIE ALCASID for Bubble Gang
Best Comedy Actress: RUFA MAE QUINTO for Hokus Pokus
Best Youth-Oriented Program: LOVE TO LOVE
Best Daytime Drama Series: NOW & FOREVER
Best Showbiz-Oriented Talk Show: STARMAN
Best Variety Show: EAT BULAGA
Best Talent Search Program: STARTRUCK 3
Best Reality Competition Program: EXTRA CHALLENGE
Best Reality Competition Host: PAOLO BEDIONES & ETHEL BOOBA for Extra Challenge
Best Horror/Fantasy Show: MAMBWANGANG BIKOL
Best Talent Search Program Host: REGINE VELASQUEZ for Pinoy Pop Superstar
Best Educational Program Host: CHRISTINE JACOB for Mobile Kasimo
Best New Female TV Personality: MARIAN RIVERA

Bati ang GMA, humiri din with 3 awards!
Best Lifestyle Show: GANDANG RICKY REYES
Best Lifestyle Show Host: RICKY REYES
Best Comedian Host: ARNEL IGNACIO for Sine Novela

Maraming Salamat, mga Kapuso!

Ang tiwala ninyo ito ang nagpalilibing inspirasyon sa amin
upang patuloy kaming makapaghatid sa inyo ng mga programang
inyong kagigiliwan, aabangan at lalo na pagkakatiwalaan.

'Buhay na ang Pinoy Global Cinema!'

Cinemanila 2006's slogan is a misnomer, but the fact that the festival has survived censorship and piracy deserves notice

By Crescencio C. Tajora

THE 8TH CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL Film Festival is being mounted on Nov. 3-13 in SM Digital Cinema at the Megamall, SM North Edsa and the Mall of Asia in Greenhills Cinemas at Ayala Center, Makati City, and in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Auditorium in Intramuros, Manila.

It will feature 75 full-length films from 25 countries in five sections—World Cinema, Young Cinema, Digital Lokal, Philippine Documentary and Young Cinemaker.

If that sounds like news, that's because it is. Just the fact that the country's premier international film festival has persisted and survived the onslaught of years of censorship, video piracy and slack attendance is already big news.

While, in previous years, local complexities would botch at the month every time an international or foreign film but was being held in the country, these days no one pays anyone dreading to anticipate or the news of another such event forthcoming.

Take the films for competition in Cinemanila 2006. Some of them have already won awards or got noticed in major festivals abroad—Mike Tuviera's "Sex Drive" in Venice; Ken Kamil's "The Wind That Shakes the Barley" in Cannes; Brad Bliss Gyrl's "Climates" in Cannes; Aldemarie Solasen's "The Star" in Berlin; Jeffrey Jetturian's "Babaylan" in Moscow.

Seductive

And more unfortunate of all, most of them, including Stanley Kwan's "Everlasting Regret" and Fish Chan-Wook's "Sympathy for Lady Vengeance," have been circulating on bootleg DVDs for months. Thus, their novelty has already worn out long before they can appear on our theater screens.

Then there is their erratic scheduling and variable, not to say wide-ranging, screening venues that would frustrate many a potential moviegoer. Even a hard-core cinephile would rather stay put in home than get lacerated in the traffic, float in air-conditioning, not to say spend more for a movie, even if it means watching movies in a van.

Despite these setbacks, however, Cinemanila has become a showcase for local films that later get invited to international film fests and grab major awards or receive citations. Among these are Mes de Guzman's "Kaj Dose Pitongpung Salitangtang," Brillante Mendoza's "Kaleldo," Auraeus Solito's "Tribu," Paulo Villaluna and Elwin Raoniel Tharapse's "Anamnesis," Jeffrey Jetturian's "Babaylan" and Lav Diaz's "Heremias."

Also showcasing what's best from the digital revolution in local cinema and institutionalize it with a section devoted to it, Digital Lokal, making a bang instead as the home of Philippine cinema, as inferred from the strong showing of such Filipino films as festivals abroad. This year's Cinemanila theme, "Buhay Na ang Pinoy Global Cinema!"

That slogan sounds like a misnomer, since it is actually a craving and not a birthing of our national cinema. The resurgence of Filipino films is being recognized by no less than Gawad Urian film director and artistic delegate Clodualdo Del Mundo, Jr. as he is especially chairing the jury in Cinemanila's Digital Lokal competition.

But film fest organizers also want to remind local moviegoers that they have had a lively film culture long before. It remembers the Filipino movie's golden past, and that year it is holding an eight-a-week-long Lino Brocka retrospective.

Brocka classics

To be screened are Brocka's internationally acclaimed classics such as "Insiang" and "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," "Manoculang" of the late National Artist for Film will be exhibited at the FDCP.

The NCCA will also be the venue for a special outreach workshop on guerilla filmmaking on Nov. 10-13, a screenwriters' master class under Ina Bituonni, Nov. 11-12, and a workshop on screenplay writing to be conducted by Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. and Pete Lacaba, Nov. 13-14.

The festival opens at the Greenhills Cinemas at Mall of Asia with the screening of Michel Gondry's "The Science of Sleep" on Nov. 3 at 7 pm. It closes with Lav Diaz's "Heremias."

"CLIMATES"

"VERA DRAKE"

"EVERLASTING REGRET"

FEEDBACK

Thanks, but ...

From Pablo Villaluna Binuya, "Sleepers"

Thanks for the report on "Buyog."

We need to clarify that the movie was also an official entry in the 2006 Pusan International Film Festival in Korea. "Buyog" and Jeffrey Jetturian's "Babaylan" went to the Winds of Asia program and Michael Tarantula "Kaleldo" went to the New Currents program.

CJ Simbo, which inked a distribution deal with Viva Entertainment for "Buyog," picks its choices from the official selections and not from the Asian Film Market.

Nina takes on OPM hits in 'Gold'

WITH THE SUCCESS OF HER album "Nina Live," people have been associating Nina with the songs "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways," "Freefall I Heard," and other iconic versions of Filipino pop hits.

But on Nov. 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30 and Dec. 1 and 3, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum, the talented and multitalented 21-time OPM-songs-from-the-'80s-and-'90s-to-"Gold" (Freedom) (BMG Disc)?

"This will be Nina's first time to perform an all-OPM repertoire of English and Tagalog hits that include songs like "Friend of Mine," "Pilit," "Give Me A Chance," "I'll Be Here," "Don't Know What To Do" "Sana Dalawa ang Puso Ko," "Unang Sabog," "Tanghalan ng Pag," "Forever Blue," "Mine So Mine Him" and "Dahan-dahan Lang Mga Mamalo."

"It's really an honor for me to be given the chance to sing some of the best OPM songs," says Nina. "It's the first time I'll be singing most of them. I hope I can do justice to the songs."

Call 891-9999, 721-6726 or 726-0713.

Ballroom dancing

THE country's champion of ballroom dancing in regional and international competitions will show their winning moves in "Ballroom Superstars" for the benefit of old and ailing priests.

"These priests may not get to watch the show," says producer Dr. Wilo Dalmacy, of dancer Hearth. "But they will have the satisfaction of knowing our audiences will be enjoying themselves. And while they are enjoying themselves, they are also doing something to help others."

The affair will be a phenomenal show of the country's world-class Latin and standard couples who have garnered awards in competitions abroad, and featuring ballroom diva Kitkat Ledesma, who won the championship in Latin dancing in Budapest. Limited free seats.

The dinner starts at the Quezon Metropolitan Hotel in Quezon City, Nov. 4 before moving on to the Zaijian Provincial Cultural Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, Nov. 11; the Hotel Puerto Pino in Batangas City, Dec. 1; and the Casino Filipino in Tagaytay City, Dec. 7.

A ticket to the show includes dinner and the ballroom dancing that follows after the show.

Call Kristine, 09225321235, Vinnie 09178420512, Hazzel 09229707750, Malou 09157986004.

Concert tour

Maestros Wings from 2006 ended the year by successfully holding parties in the weekends of July, August and September. Bamboo performed in Manila in Pasig, Quezon, Greenwood, Ilo-ilo and QC. But in Cagayan de Oro, leaving the spectators totally satisfied. The band's reign of power included a homecoming in Mapúa's Papaita, where every inch of space was occupied.

Parokya ni Edgar conjured equal chaos in her Get-It-Underground Makati, Xander's, Olongapo and in the Anniversary office of Naga and Legazpi, to the delight of the local Wingers crowd.

Meanwhile, in Bamboo in Quezon City, Ely Buendia held court, doing what it did best—rocking hard and fast like a tornado. Supporters stormed Shaman solo and, together with Sandwich, later blended Shaman Wings with Pinoy rock music. The Bids created its own tempest at the Batangas Country Club, wowing the crowds with its signature encore and grooves.

Six years the leaders weathered solid dampers the Filipinos spirit of fun, if the success of the rainy season for Pinoy Rock Festival indication, the rest of the year is going to experience fans and non-stop parties all the way to the grand music blast in December.

Tonight

The Ambassadors at "On Riders, Ascona, QC.

Tomorrow

Retrospect at

SHOW TIME

Ronky Moran

Orange and Lemons and Coffeebreak Island at Towers on the Square, Greenbelt 3

October 31

BSP Strings and Jean Pablo Orosan at Towers on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Hidemoto Party with Spy at "On Riders, Ascona, QC

Silk & Steel at Mo@On the Riders, Greenbelt 3

November 3

Orange and Lemons at Nobody Makati

November 4

Kim Flores in a musical opera entitled "Sutra

BAMBOO at GIC Bar in Cagayan de Oro

"BALLROOM Superstars"

at Journal" at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater)

November 11

Shelly and Jose with Bada Mae Quintos at SM Pampanga

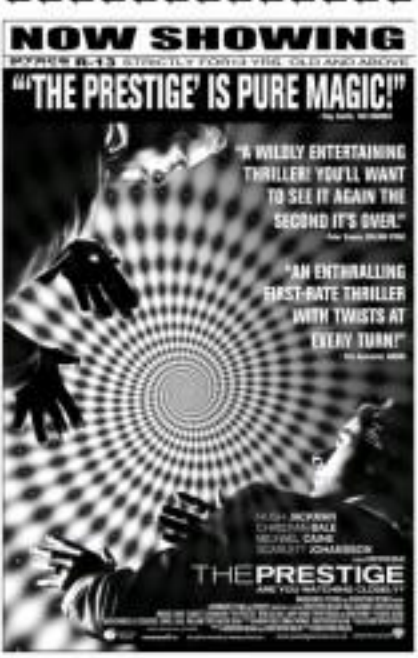
Film at Robinson's Manila

November 18

Film at Ever Gotesco Commonwealth

November 24

Film at Ever Gotesco Recto



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Prize Overload

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Bumuo lang ng group of 3. The more you load, mas maraming discounts at mas marami ding chances of winning!

From a group of 3 and register within 15 days. Only 1 person out of 3 needs to register. The other 2 simply have to join. Ying mabo join na ang 3rd member, officially registered na ang group! May 10% discount na kayo sa Unlimited Services and Talk Calls. At may raffle entries pang makakuha with every load. When the group reaches a total load top up of ₱750 within 30 days, each member get 20% discount on all Unlimited Services and Talk Calls purchases the following month!

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Text "JOIN<space>first name/last name/address" and send to 333.
Ex. "JOIN Mark/Bernal/3906 River Radiance Corporate Center" send to 333

Sun will reply and assign a group name on pwedeng ipamigay sa mga friends mo para mag-create ng kanilang group.

See posters and flyers for details on purchasing discounted load.

How to join a group:

Text "JOIN<space>group name/first name/last name/address" and send to 333.
Ex. "JOIN<space>Barkadas/Jessa/Bernal/3906 River Radiance Corporate Center" send to 333

Group members must use the assigned name na pwedeng ng Sun Cellular sa bawat group member.

How to join the RAFFLE:

Simply load any of the following Sun Cellular prepaid products para makakuha ng raffle entries:

1. Physical regular load
2. Physical unlimited call texts
3. Physical special reach
4. Dealer vouchers
5. Xpress load regular reload
6. Xpress Load unlimited reload
7. Pocketing Stories reload
8. CDR call card

Raffle entry accumulation table:

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF RAFFLE ENTRIES EARNED
Every 1st P150 load/reload	1
When group reaches P750 within 30 days	10
1st consecutive month group load ₱750 within 30 days	10
2nd consecutive month group load ₱750 within 30 days	20

For more info, call the Sun Hotline (995-8888) or visit www.sunwireless.com.ph. See posters for more details. Promo period: Jan. 22, 2008 to Jan 28, 2008.

Prizes:

WEEK 1 (1/22 - 1/28)	QTY	# OF ENTRIES NEEDED	RAFFLE DATE
Nokia Asha N-Gage QD Smartphone	10	20	Monday
2 GB Talk 'n Text Unlimited 1 day	250	40	Monday
2 GB Talk 'n Text Unlimited 1 day	250	20	Monday
WEEK 2 (1/29 - 2/4)	**QTY**	**# OF ENTRIES NEEDED**	**RAFFLE DATE**
iPod Nano 8G	1	4	Mon 2/4
Philips DVD Player DVP 3560	1	3	Mon 2/4
iPod Nano 4G	1	3	Mon 2/4
Canon Powershot A 1200 Digital Camera	1	3	Mon 2/4
Sony Ericsson W910i 3G Cellphone	1	2	Mon 2/4
Sony Ericsson W995 3G Cellphone	1	2	Mon 2/4
Canon Video HV Camcorder Video DV	1	2	Mon 2/4
Nike Shoes sneaker	1	1	Mon 2/4
Samsung LED 32" with remote TV	1	1	Mon 2/4
Samsung LED 40" w/ Home Theatre System	1	1	Mon 2/4
Mini DVD 3 in 1	1	1	Mon 2/4
MP3 Walkman	1	1	Mon 2/4

*30% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00 shall be shouldered by Digital Mobile Philippines Inc.

Promo Duration: January 22 to 28, 2008 | Valid for Sun Cellular subscribers only | Prizes shown may vary | Terms and conditions apply | For SUN SUN subscribers - Unlimited Services and Talk Calls are valid only for calls to Sun Cellular subscribers | Sun Cellular reserves the right to change the terms and conditions of this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular is not responsible for lost, damaged, or misdirected entries | Sun Cellular employees and their immediate relatives are not eligible to join | Sun Cellular reserves the right to disqualify any subscriber who violates the terms and conditions of this promo | Sun Cellular reserves the right to substitute prizes with those of equal or greater value | Sun Cellular reserves the right to cancel this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to extend this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to modify this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to terminate this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to suspend this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to withdraw this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to amend this promo without prior notice | Sun Cellular reserves the right to change the terms and conditions of this promo without prior notice

ENTERTAINMENT

Waiting in vain for Gina Pareño in Hawaii festival

...and why Kirsten Dunst felt lonely playing Marie Antoinette

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"WHERE IS GINA PAREÑO?"

We just got back from Honolulu, Hawaii where that question was asked by many who attended the just concluded Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF).

Pete Isorena Rapsa Rapsa, coproducer of "Submarine (The Jet Generation)," had to field the question "Where's Gina?" or "Where's the actress?" so many times after the well-**attended screenings of the film**. "Submarine" was one of the five films **competing in the feature film category**.

It was a shame that Gina, who had won Best Actress at the 6th Osian-Cinefan Film Festival in New Delhi, India and who had been dressing down from critics all over the **world for her performance as an aging** "Inang Kalendar," had a tough time traversing her US visa. By the time it was resolved, it was too late for her to make it to the awards show last Thursday evening.

Earlier, when we met Roger at the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel, he was still hoping that Gina would show up.

Around the globe

The "Submarine" folks had to spread themselves **around the globe to be able to grace almost all of** the festivals that the film had been invited to. Director Jeffrey Jeturian was in Mumbai, India before joining producer Joji Alonso in Sutherland, Spain. Roger was **still somewhere in England**, where the film is featured in the 50th London International Film Festival. From London, they will travel separately or together to more festivals. Those folks are certainly racking up frequent flyer miles!

The HIFF weekend a reception last Monday evening for our press group, this year's recipient of the Bob Maize in Film Award. We met the festival's executive director, Chuck Boller, who told us how excited he was at the Filipino focus section commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Philippine migrations to Hawaii.

Aside from featuring the usual suspects—Raymond Red and Bellaarie "Dante" Mendoza—Filipino focus also featured the works of Mike Sandejas, Stephanie Castillo and Gerardo Tenorio, Jung. The latter produced "Sinkahan with Aloha," **billed as the official documentary of the centennial** celebration of the three migrations to Hawaii.

Jeturian's film, Jose Mari directed the video, which uses archival footage to **recount the star of Filipinos from** sugar plantation workers to becoming the third largest ethnic group in Hawaii.

Tuncalizing description

Here we wished we could say Anger to Franchis—if only to reach all the offerings in a section named "Outside the (Manila) Envelope: Hawaii Program." The festival's program coordinator **accordingly described the** section this way:

"The theme in this program were mostly from the Cinemalaya Film Festival (Asia's Tagalog for 'indie cinema'). Go outside the (manila) envelope, and meet a new generation of Filipino filmmakers, shooting digitally and independent of the studio system, telling stories of a modern Philippines."

"The documentary 'In Death, in Life' (Terence Nicanor, 2003) contrasts, with great compassion, the death of a well-to-do woman against a dumpsite-town widower trying to bury his wife. 'Lahi's Play' (Jhanna Uli Soriano, 2005) is the hurtful story of a blind girl's dreams, adapted from a storybook written by the director (Jhanna). 'Sa Ilalim' (Keiko Balao, 2006) is an experimental narrative where in a protagonist confronts her father's last. 'Inang Pelikula' (Gabriel Tilo, 2006) and 'Nasa' (Jodi Gagarra, 2005) are both touching bittersweet mom. 'Manyan' (Joel Nair, 2005) is a charming tale of a transhooper, a gardener, and what happens when the owners leave on a vacation."

FS-Am cinematographer

As the evening, we bumped into LA-based FIL-Am publicist Jowie Magbal this agency published "Illusions" in its LE decorated era!, who helped in the festival's programming. Other kababayan notables in the HIFF include the Los Angeles-Iraka Family: this festival's Abraham Series and the University of Asia and the Pacific's Dean Emeritus Dr. Ramon Reyes, who was also in attendance.

WATCHING IT

KIRSTEN DUNST (left) in "Marie Antoinette"

ROBIN and Zsazsa

CARLO Aquino

Padilla & Padilla big winners at 3rd Golden Screen Awards

By Nini Valera

ROBIN PADILLA WON HIS THIRD BEST MOtor trophy for the comedy "Sa Piso Lang" on Thursday night at the 3rd Golden Screen Awards held at the Pagcor Grand Theater in the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

The Golden Screen Awards is given out by the Entertainment Press Society or Enpress.

Padilla, 36, sporting an animal-inspired barong and shades, showed up midway the evening, dedicated his victory to producer Sharon Cuneta, who had featured in the movie directed by Mark Meily and produced by Daniel Razon.

He was accompanied to the awards fete by his mother Eva Cantiz, and was remarkable he received his trophy, grateful for the recognition by the mainstream media.

He was not nominated in the last three **awards of the Film Academy of the Philippines.**

Rookie's victory

It was also a big night for Carlo Aquino, who won the Best Actor trophy for Dennis for his role in the digital film "Sa Ilalim Pagkatapos ng Kamukmok," directed by Joe Rastrada.

Aquino beat veterans actors Aga Muhlach, Ricky Davao, John Arcilla, Ted Failon and the iconic Eddie Garcia for the honor.

"My knees are still shaking," Aquino said **backstage shortly after receiving his award.** He said he didn't think he stood a chance.

Damage. Aquino **acknowledged Vina Filose'** big heart Vic Del Rosario. Aquino is a contract star of Viva.

Jun Jun Padilla won her fifth acting award for "Mix, Legal Wife." She again credited longtime companion Dolphy for her comic talent, which was showcased in the Viva comedy.

Out of town

Ara Capri's Best Actress trophy for a dramatic role in the indie film "Ria Wrede, Sia Pedro," directed by Ricky Santos, is the first local recognition for her stint overseas.

Capri earlier won as Best Actress in last year's Cinemanila festival for her role in "Ria Wrede," produced by Mayhaven Stones Film world. In 1999, she also bagged the Cinemanila Best Actress trophy for "Pila Balde."

Unfortunately, Capri, who was last confirmed her attendance, failed to show up. She was out of town, taping a show.

When told by cell phone that she had won, Capri cried and said she regretted not being able to accept the trophy herself, according to Kristy Cardenas, Enpress vice president for the Golden Screen Awards.

Inspiration

Joel Lamangan was named Best Director for "Blue Moon," a multi-generational love story produced by Regal Entertainment.

Lamangan said the award would serve as an inspiration for him to do better movies.

"Blue Moon" was also named Best Drama Picture and gave Boots Anson-Roa the Best Supporting Actress Trophy.

Best Comedy Picture was "La Vina Cora."

"Ang Huang Kwentong Kalimutgang," produced by Kampay Bakod Productions, bagged

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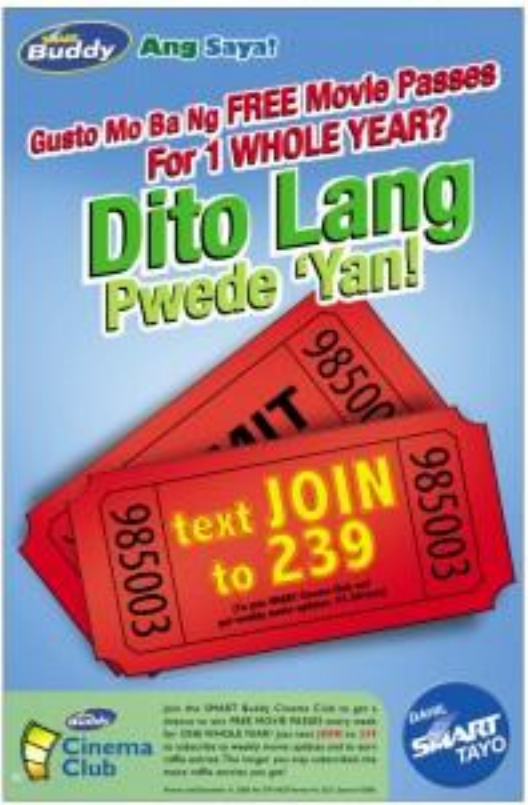


Padilla & Padilla Enpress winners

From page E

On their Picture for an indie film.

The Best Supporting Actor trophy went to Soliman Cruz, for UP!!! Pictures' "Ang Huling Aalalaga ni Sharmaine Dilemma."

Where was he?

Ironically, the actor, who had arrived early, could not be located when his name was called.

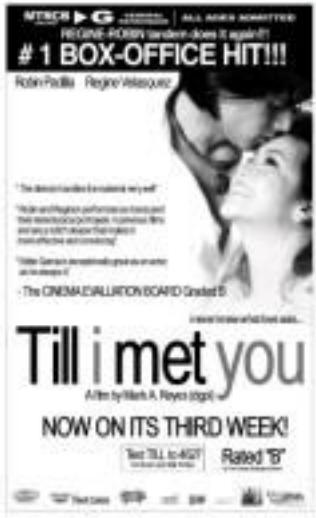
"I was hungry, so I left for a bite to eat," he explained later backstage. "My cell phone battery went dead so I wouldn't receive texts or calls, anyway, I'm here, and I'm happy."

Amy actress JC Bedes, who received the award for Breakthrough Performance by an Actress for her role in "Five Flims" "Bangon," said she did not expect to win. "I just wanted to be here," she said backstage.

Danilo Barrios, her film in partner, did not

WINNERS CIRCLE. First row, from left: Angela Ilagan, Robin Padilla, Carlo Aquino. Second row, from left, Soliman Cruz, Dennis Marasigan, Lily Monteverde, Mark Meily, Tony Davis, Zsazsa Padilla, Joel Lamangan

ASIA PERM IN a dance number



Waiting in vain for Gina in Hawaii

From page E

Alexis Tioseco, who served as jurors in the short film category and "OK! Ako" dissed, supportedly.

"Paper Dolls" it a documentary directed by actress Tonee Reyneses, but it is about four fil-lipino transvestites who take care of aged Orthodox Jewish nuns. On awards night, however, they transform themselves into "The Paper Dolls" who perform to camp-y disco-y hits. This does it-nals the rounds of the festival circuit.

And did you know that the cinematographer of such films as "Gothika," "Everything is Illuminated," "Swan Song" and the upcoming "The Brothers" (co-starring four of a film) and "Iron Man," (co-FILiked Matthew Libatique received the 2006 Eastman Kodak Award for excellence in cinematography.

Our press group was honored for its globe-theatre work. The actor-only the fourth time in the festival's 30-year history that the Vision in Film Award was given, "thirdly quarter! Chuck Bolito or-ceasing, "Their vision goes beyond just the-ory-of" going to more dimension. They have beautiful goals, and I think they're very closer about who gets their money."

Early recipients include the American Film Institute, the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute and filmmakers-ting Lee and Chang-Yimou.

By the way, from our hostess Saturday at the Royal Hawaiian. I heard, our stars a glass accessories showing a movie night on the beach at sunset. It was part of a four-night event coordinated by HPC Pitching a documentary like "Six Karatini Men of Oahu" on the sand as the sun set—what could be more-thrilled-ously Hawaiian than that?

* * *

FALLER in LA, ace interviewer Gideon Duard, who stars in "Manic Interviewer," tells Coppola's tales on the life of the French-vintage queen. Using contemporary music. Francis Ford Coppola's talented daughter makes the period drama appealing to modern audiences. Kirsten's cousin, actor Schwartzman, plays Louis XVI in the film based on Antonia Fraser's enjoyable biography "Marie-Antoinette: The Journey."

Sofia, in an apparent-interview, defended her use of music by the likes of New Order, Aphex Twin, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Gang of Four and The Strokes to score the life of France's 18th century queen. "I always felt like it was a really delicate balance because I wanted to make the film contemporary for that a modern audience could relate to it. Some starving punk teen, I wanted to tell the story of Marie Antoinette from her point of view and what might it be like if you were her being in that time and in that teenage world where you had all this decadence offered to you, what it would feel like and the excitement of going to a masked ball for the first time. I thought of using music that made me feel excited as opposed to limiting myself just to the period music of that time."

Below are excerpts from our press con-vith Gideon.

The pink motif, the clothes and parties and the small dogs all reminded us a little bit of Paris Hilton. Were you reminded of her, too?

Please All I can say about Paris Hilton is that I've seen her movie and I hope she comes out soon (laughter). That's the only correlation I have.

What effect did playing this role have on you?

I felt extremely lonely (the one a very introspective and vulnerable person to-play. I couldn't judge her, have love or think she was stupid. I had to love her because I'm playing this girl. I had to find her reasons why she did the things she did but it was hard to mix up the ages. One day, I'd play-her older (Steele and the next day, I'd play the younger version. So I had to map out where I am. It ended up being a very unusual movie-for me because a lot of it is about like, this tastes good or that feels nice.

Why did you feel lonely? I assume that you were surrounded by people all the time.

Even when you're surrounded by people, you can still feel terribly lonely. That's what she was feeling and, in playing a role where you don't interact with people and they're not a character, you feel lonely. The only person I really felt close to was Jamie. At the end, there-days were a little bit of a heartbreak-up shoulder because his-was time-sharing the same feelings. I think in a way, with him, his when I was working with him, I felt a little more lighthearted.

Do you think they had a freer view on the lonely than we have today?

Every-making every country, every person sees it differently. I guess-apparently-but because my father was from Cuba. Germany. There was-sense of freedom in-ny-home.

In the movie, you portrayed the growth of Marie Antoinette from a young, frivolous child. Did you experience any growth yourself-after doing the movie?

I definitely expect-ensed growth in my acting because I've never-been in-volumes. Me in a movie before-in this one. To me, it is-ems hard to talk about it in a way because it-almost feels like it's my own little personal dream that shouldn't be talked about. I felt very independent living in Paris. I felt powerful. I had my friends around me-on the film-Jason and I spent a lot of time-together but it gave me a sense of being-done. That was all right-and I do-think-by-felt-growth in the way I approached a role. I had never done a movie

Waiting in vain for Gina Pareño in Hawaii

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with as little dialogue. It was really hit up to myself and that was scary but also, it was good for me.

Jason told us that you are so attractive and lovely that he had a hard time keeping his eyes away because...

Oh yeah, right. Jason is sweet (laughing).

How did you feel about trying to get his attention?

Sometimes I'd crack up. Whenever we're doing those hot scenes and everything, eh, I was laughing all the time because Jason is goofy. So I asked Stella, if I can eat chocolate or something where it's my own little thing? Like trying to fill myself with either as an expression of a lack of sensuality. I need food in a big way because it was like trying to get something around out of the food that I am not getting in the bedroom (laughter). But yeah, it was hard not to laugh with Jason. He always brightens up life on the set and in life. I adore him.

How did Stella guide you? What qualities do you think she saw in you?

I think Stella saw me in this part because she knew I could portray this kind of woman. You will be sympathetic toward her in her partying and frivolity. But Stella wouldn't really say anything to me. We have a connection... connecting of each other's aesthetic, perspective and sensibility. So there's not much that we strive for spoken. She never imposed any guidelines. She saw it happen as we go. I like working with that kind of freedom.

How long did it take for you to wear that wig?

I used to cry over hair. It took like two-and-a-half hours for me to get ready everyday it was wrong.

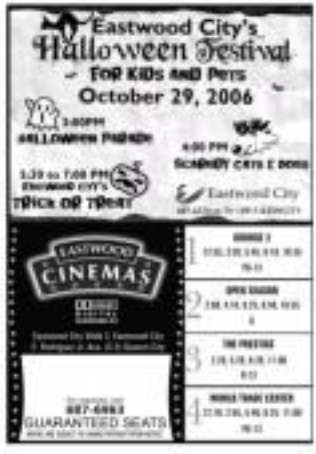
Please talk about "Spider-Man 3."

In the new "Spider-Man," we've all grown up a bit so it's much more dramatic. And there are the relationships— more complicated. My character is still an actress. Jane (Dunst, the director's flavor) put us through a few flavors a lot of drama and life lessons. It's going to be very "operatic."

And you have competition for Peter's heart?

Her competition, I mean, in the film, Dexter's lying to Mary Jane about certain things and it hinders their relationship. But I was glad to have another girl (Bryce Dallas Howard) on the set. I was happy to share some of the burden of an all-male set with boys.

E-mail the columnist at rmpalo_1505@yahoo.com.



Bago at Pinatinding Linggo para sa inyo, Kapuso!

STARTING THIS

GMA

HALLOWEEN SUNDAY

11:45 AM

SM Clark, Pampanga Entertainment Plaza and GMA Network , Studio 3

- Breakthrough Solo Recording Artist
- Breakthrough Group Recording Artist
- Maximum Dance Blast
- Revive '06
- Favorite GMA TV Series Theme Song
- Viewer's Choice for Artist of the Year
- Viewer's Choice for Song of the Year

KAPUSO

GRAND OPENING

MOVIE FESTIVAL

2:30PM

PHILIPPINE TV PREMIERE

Ang blockbuster hit nina Bossing at Tolits, mapapanood na sa TV!

4:00 PM

Sinong artista ang may nakakayanig na kwento?

6:00 PM

Ang kakila-kilabot na alamat ng Butiki, matutuklasan na!

6:30 PM

Mag-iingat sa pagtatangkan ng Erpats kong Zombie!

7:30 PM

Mula sa lumang pusali sa Escolta, pakikinggan ang mga kakila-kilabot na kuwento nina Alex Gonzaga, Rochelle Pangilinan, Teri Onor at Andrew E.

8:30 PM

K-ateyan na ang mga artistang sa[ ]na sa[ ]pagtatalog sa takutan!

9:30 PM

Sabak na nanay nga ba ang kahanapin nina Kuh, Ehrek, Dion at Paolo?

10:30 PM

SUNDAY NIGHT BOX OFFICE

SNBO

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL...
Isang Gabi Lang!

HARRY POTTER
& THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Walang tulugan hanggang umaga sa panonood sa walang kasing-exciting na Chapter 2 ng Harry Potter saga!